

# Test forms for the External Quality Assessment (EQA) for laboratories participating in the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net), 2023

**Participating laboratories can only submit results online via the webtool.**

**This form cannot be submitted.**

This form is designed to help participating laboratories prepare their results before submission in the EARS-Net EQA webtool (<https://earsnet.ega.dtu.dk/>). When submitting the results online in the webtool, participants will be asked for the following information:

## TEST FORM METHODS

***Streptococcus pneumoniae* - strain no.** \_\_\_\_\_

The isolate should be considered as being obtained from a patient with a bloodstream infection.

Oxacillin and norfloxacin results should be reported, regardless of their EUCAST status as 'screen only'.

All  $\beta$ -lactam antimicrobials (penicillin, oxacillin, cefotaxime and ceftriaxone) should be tested, regardless of results obtained for penicillin and oxacillin.

All macrolide antimicrobials (azithromycin, clarithromycin and erythromycin) should be tested, regardless of results obtained for erythromycin.

All fluoroquinolone antimicrobials (levofloxacin, moxifloxacin and norfloxacin) should be tested, regardless of results obtained for norfloxacin.

Non-reported results will not be scored, but will still be visible in the individual evaluation reports.

1. Which methodology did you mainly use for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) in this EQA exercise?

- Broth microdilution
- Macro broth dilution (tubes)
- Agar dilution
- Gradient test
  - E-test
  - MIC strip
  - Other – specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Disk/Tablet diffusion  
 Oxoid  
 Neo sensitabs  
 BD/BBL sensi disc  
 MAST  
 Liofilchem  
 Other– specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Automated system  
 VITEK  
 Phoenix  
 Microscan Walkaway  
 Other – specify: \_\_\_\_\_

- Other  
 If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which standard/guideline did you use when performing AST?

- EUCAST  
 Other  
 If other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you normally send this (invasive!) strain to a reference or other laboratory?  
 Yes/No

4. Please change method for the relevant antibiotic(s) if it differs from the chosen method in question 1. The result will by default be set to the information provided in question 1.

Antimicrobial	Method
Azithromycin	
Cefotaxime	
Ceftriaxone	
Clarithromycin	
Erythromycin	
Levofloxacin	
Moxifloxacin	
Norfloxacin	
Oxacillin	
Penicillin	

Strain ID	Antimicrobial	Results and interpretation		
		≤ / = / >	MIC value (mg/L) or zone diameter (mm)	S / I / R / NA
	Azithromycin			
	Cefotaxime			
	Ceftriaxone			
	Clarithromycin			
	Erythromycin			
	Levofloxacin			
	Moxifloxacin			
	Norfloxacin			
	Oxacillin			
Penicillin				

Kindly note, due to the Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) between DTU and the original providers of the isolate:

1. It is recommended to store the strain in your strain collection (e.g. in a -80°C freezer), at least until you have reviewed your results from this EQA exercise. This will allow for repetition of species identification and AST, if needed, in light of your individual performance.
2. Strains received for the 2023 EARS-Net EQA cannot be re-distributed further by the recipient laboratories.
3. It is not possible for DTU or the National EARS-Net EQA Coordinator to distribute strains to laboratories after the EQA exercise, e.g. for confirmatory, training, or reference purposes.