

Note

Supplementary report by the Working Party* on antibiotic sensitivity testing of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

Since the publication of the BSAC “Guide to Sensitivity Testing” in 1991 (Working Party, 1991) there have been a number of new antimicrobial agents, particularly macrolides and cephalosporins, introduced. Breakpoint recommendations for these agents and for fosfomycin which, in the UK, is only available for the treatment of urinary tract infections have been included in the following table, which should replace Table 1.4.III of the original publication (Working Party, 1991).

Reference

Working Party of the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (1991). A guide to sensitivity testing. *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy* **27**, *Suppl. D*.

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Table 1.4.III. Summary of breakpoint recommendations (concentrations mg/L)

	Group I staphylococci, streptococci <i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i> & <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>		Group II Enterobacteriaceae and <i>Pseudomonas</i> spp.	
	low	high	low	high
Aminoglycosides				
gentamicin	1	4	1	4
tobramycin	1	4	1	1
netilmicin	1	4	1	4
amikacin	4	16	4	16
β -lactams ^a				
penicillins				
benzylpenicillin	0.12 ^b			
methicillin	4			
ampi/amoxicillin with or without clavulanate	1		8	
carbencillin			32	128
ticarcillin with or without clavulanate	2		16	64
azlocillin			16	64
piperacillin with or without tazobactam	2		16	64
mezlocillin	2		16	64
temocillin			32	
cephalosporins, etc				
cephalexin	2	8	2	8
cephradine	2	8	2	8
cefotaxime	1	8	1	8
ceftazidime	2	8	2	8
cefuroxime	1	8	1	8
cefuroxime ^d				
cefuroxime	4	8	4	16
cefixime	1		1	4
cefpodoxime	1		1	4
ceftibuten	1		1	4
cefpime	2		2	8
ceftriaxone	1		1	8

					Note
Other					
imipenem	4			4	
meropenem	4			4	
aztreonam		8			
Quinolones					
ciprofloxacin	1	4		1	4
ofloxacin	2	8		2	8
enoxacin	1	4		1	4
norfloxacin	1	4		1	4
Miscellaneous					
clindamycin	0.5				
vancomycin	4				
teicoplanin	4				
chloramphenicol	2	8		8	
tetracycline	1			1	
fusidic acid	1				
rifampicin	1				
trimethoprim	0.5			0.5	2
sulphamethoxazole		2			
fosfomycin (urine only)		32			
colistin		128			128
Macrolides		4			
erythromycin	0.5	8 ^c			
clarithromycin	0.5	16 ^c			
azithromycin	1.0				
azithromycin	0.25 ^c	4 ^c			

Shaded areas = alterations/additions.

^aGroup 1 staphylococci. Staphylococci exhibiting resistance to methicillin/oxacillin should be regarded as resistant to the other penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, carbacephems and combinations of β -lactam and β -lactamase inhibitor, despite apparent sensitivity using conventional methods of susceptibility testing.

^bStrains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* with reduced susceptibility to benzylpenicillin (and oxacillin)—in special cases, for example meningitis, require MIC determinations to benzylpenicillin and cefotaxime (or ceftriaxone)

^cBreakpoints for *H. influenzae* only

^dAdministered parenterally.