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Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; Eighteenth Informational Supplement

This document provides updated tables for the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) antimicrobial susceptibility testing standards M2-A9 and M7-A7.

An informational supplement for global application developed through the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute consensus process.



Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute

Advancing Quality in Health Care Testing

The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, formerly NCCLS) is an international, interdisciplinary, nonprofit, standards-developing, and educational organization that promotes the development and use of voluntary consensus standards and guidelines within the health care community. It is recognized worldwide for the application of its unique consensus process in the development of standards and guidelines for patient testing and related health care issues. Our process is based on the principle that consensus is an effective and cost-effective way to improve patient testing and health care services.

In addition to developing and promoting the use of voluntary consensus standards and guidelines, we provide an open and unbiased forum to address critical issues affecting the quality of patient testing and health care.

PUBLICATIONS

A document is published as a standard, guideline, or committee report.

Standard A document developed through the consensus process that clearly identifies specific, essential requirements for materials, methods, or practices for use in an unmodified form. A standard may, in addition, contain discretionary elements, which are clearly identified.

Guideline A document developed through the consensus process describing criteria for a general operating practice, procedure, or material for voluntary use. A guideline may be used as written or modified by the user to fit specific needs.

Report A document that has not been subjected to consensus review and is released by the Board of Directors.

CONSENSUS PROCESS

The CLSI voluntary consensus process is a protocol establishing formal criteria for:

- the authorization of a project
- the development and open review of documents
- the revision of documents in response to comments by users
- the acceptance of a document as a consensus standard or guideline.

Most documents are subject to two levels of consensus—"proposed" and "approved." Depending on the need for field evaluation or data collection, documents may also be made available for review at an intermediate consensus level.

Proposed A consensus document undergoes the first stage of review by the health care community as a proposed standard or guideline. The document should receive a wide and thorough technical review, including an overall review of its scope, approach, and utility, and a line-by-line review of its technical and editorial content.

Approved An approved standard or guideline has achieved consensus within the health care community. It should be reviewed to assess the utility of the final document, to ensure attainment of consensus (ie, that comments on earlier versions have been satisfactorily addressed), and to identify the need for additional consensus documents.

Our standards and guidelines represent a consensus opinion on good practices and reflect the substantial agreement by materially affected, competent, and interested parties obtained by following CLSI's established consensus procedures. Provisions in CLSI standards and guidelines may be more or less stringent than applicable regulations. Consequently, conformance to this voluntary consensus document does not relieve the user of responsibility for compliance with applicable regulations.

COMMENTS

The comments of users are essential to the consensus process. Anyone may submit a comment, and all comments are addressed, according to the consensus process, by the committee that wrote the document. All comments, including those that result in a change to the document when published at the next consensus level and those that do not result in a change, are responded to by the committee in an appendix to the document. Readers are strongly encouraged to comment in any form and at any time on any document. Address comments to Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, PA 19087, USA.

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION

Health care professionals in all specialties are urged to volunteer for participation in CLSI projects. Please contact us at customerservice@clsi.org or +610.688.0100 for additional information on committee participation.

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Abstract

The supplemental information presented in this document is intended for use with the antimicrobial susceptibility testing procedures published in the following Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) approved standards: M2-A9—*Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Tests; Approved Standard—Ninth Edition*; and M7-A7—*Methods for Dilution Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests for Bacteria That Grow Aerobically; Approved Standard—Seventh Edition*. The standards contain information about both disk (M2) and dilution (M7) test procedures for aerobic bacteria.

Clinicians depend heavily on information from the clinical microbiology laboratory for treatment of their seriously ill patients. The clinical importance of antimicrobial susceptibility test results requires that these tests be done under optimal conditions and that laboratories have the capability to provide results for the newest antimicrobial agents.

The tabular information presented here represents the most current information for drug selection, interpretation, and quality control using the procedures standardized in M2 and M7. Users should replace the tables published earlier with these new tables. (Changes in the tables since the most current edition appear in boldface type.)

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute. *Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing; Eighteenth Informational Supplement*. CLSI document M100-S18 (ISBN 1-56238-653-0). Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087-1898 USA, 2008.

The data in the interpretive tables in this supplement are valid only if the methodologies in M2-A9—*Performance Standards for Antimicrobial Disk Susceptibility Tests; Approved Standard—Ninth Edition*; and M7-A7—*Methods for Dilution Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests for Bacteria That Grow Aerobically; Approved Standard—Seventh Edition* are followed.