



Clinical Practice Change: Clinical Microbiology

Date: April 10, 2013

To: All physicians requesting antifungal susceptibility testing of *Candida* spp.

From: Dr. Michelle Alfa, Medical Director, and Shirley Hoban, Technical Director, Clinical Microbiology Discipline, Diagnostic Services of Manitoba



Re: New Antifungal Susceptibility Clinical Breakpoints for *Candida* spp.

Take Home Message: Effective April 15, 2013, *Candida* species-specific clinical breakpoint interpretations will be reported and azole and echinocandin results will be interpreted after 24 hours of growth.

New CLSI Recommendations:

In the 2013 antifungal susceptibility testing recommendations from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI), two key changes were made:

1. Species-specific clinical breakpoints were established for the azoles and echinocandins against the most common *Candida* spp.: *C. albicans*, *C. glabrata*, *C. tropicalis*, *C. parapsilosis*, and *C. krusei*.
2. CLSI has validated 24-hour reading times for broth microdilution testing of azoles. The 24-hour reading times had previously been approved for the echinocandins.

Clinical Impact:

As a result of the new CLSI recommendations, DSM will now report species-specific breakpoint interpretations for *Candida* spp. These susceptibility results will be available sooner as the testing only requires 24 hours, compared to the previous 48 hours recommendations.

Please note, based on the new guidelines, there are no clinical breakpoints for *C. glabrata* and voriconazole as there is insufficient data to demonstrate a correlation between *in vitro* susceptibility testing and clinical outcomes. Accordingly, the voriconazole MIC will be the only value reported for *C. glabrata* and a comment will be added to the report stating "Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) interpretive criteria are not available for this (these) antifungal agent(s)". Additionally, there are no interpretive criteria for *C. krusei* and fluconazole as *C. krusei* are intrinsically resistant to fluconazole.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Dr. Michelle Alfa or Shirley Hoban at 204-237-2484.