

October 2009

## Antifungal drug susceptibility testing – Yeast

To health care providers:

Effective November 1, 2009, the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP) Mycology laboratory will be making following changes to the antifungal drug susceptibility testing in order to best aid in managing patients with invasive fungal infections

### What's changing?

- Two drugs belong to the echinocandin family will now be reported:
  - Caspofungin
  - Micafungin
- The existing panel will be continued:
  - Amphotericin B
  - Fluconazole
  - Voriconazole
- Interpretation of all the above-mentioned drugs will be provided with the exception of Amphotericin B. Only a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) will be provided for Amphotericin B due to a lack of standardized interpretative breakpoints for this drug.
- The submitting laboratory must request or provide organism identification to species level for the OAHPP Mycology laboratory to perform susceptibility testing.
- For yeast isolated from non-sterile body sites, i.e. sputum, bronchial washing, urine, skin, genital area etc., susceptibility testing will not be performed routinely. Please contact the microbiologist for specific requests outside of these guidelines.
- For susceptibility testing requests for yeast other than *Candida* spp, i.e. *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *Trichosporon* spp etc, the MIC of certain drugs will be determined and reported, but interpretation will not be provided due to a lack of standardized interpretative criteria for these less yeasts.
- The turnaround time for susceptibility testing of *Candida* spp will be 2 to 3 working days from receipt of the organism in the Mycology laboratory, provided the culture is pure and growing well.

## Antifungal drug susceptibility testing – Yeast (Continued)

**For more information about antifungal drug susceptibility test, please contact:**

- Dr. Sean Zhang, clinical microbiologist at **416-235-6032**
- OAHPP mycology laboratory in Toronto at **416-235-5720** or your local OAHPP laboratory
- OAHPP laboratory Helpline **1-800-640-7221**
- For the specimen collection guide and previous Lababstracts refer to [www.oahpp.ca](http://www.oahpp.ca)