

Division of Laboratory Medicine

Meningococcal Reference Unit

Neisseria meningitidis minimum inhibitory concentration

General information

Collection container (including preservatives): Not applicable

Specimen type: Referral of viable pure cultures on slopes and transport swabs

Collection including preservative: Not applicable

Specimen transport: Only submit viable isolate samples in approved packaging (UN3373) which are suitable for Royal Mail post (airfreight) or commercial couriers such as HAYS DX.

Agar slopes: where possible pure, viable cultures; inoculated on chocolate (heated) blood agar, blood agar or Dorset egg slopes after establishing growth by overnight incubation at 37°C.

On occasion it may be necessary to submit an unincubated culture. This can save time but requires a heavy inoculum to ensure survival in transport. Please indicate on the request form if the material (slope) has not been incubated.

Short-term storage of sloped cultures is optimal at 30°C if there are delays before submission.

Minimum volume of sample: Not applicable

Special precautions: The MICs routinely determined on submitted isolates are: penicillin, cefotaxime, rifampicin, ciprofloxacin and sulphonamide (sulphamethoxazole) using Etest (Biomerieux) gradient diffusion methodology.

Other antibiotic susceptibility tests may be performed on request.

Laboratory information

Measurement units: mg/L

Biological reference units: Not applicable

Turnaround time: 2 working days if requested

Routine final report is issued within 1-2 weeks

(Last updated December 2014)