Identification and susceptibility testing of yeasts and moulds

Identification and susceptibility testing of all medically important yeasts and moulds

General information

Turnaround time: shown below from when the **culture** is available for testing.

Identification is performed by conventional methods, including MALDI-ToF. Molecular sequencing identification is available at extra charge when required.
Yeasts: 2-5 days
Longer for some slow-growing yeasts and if molecular sequence-based identification is required.

Moulds: 2-7 days
Longer for some slow-growing moulds
Longer (up to 2 weeks) if molecular sequence-based identification is required.

Susceptibility testing is performed by broth micro-dilution method using European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) standards to establish minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) for yeasts and MICs and minimum effective concentrations (MECs) for moulds. Interpretations are provided for species and drugs with breakpoints.
Yeasts: 1-5 days
Longer for some slow-growing yeasts and some drugs.

Moulds: 3-7 days
Longer for some slow-growing moulds and some drugs.

Sample type/container:

Category 2 pure cultures as per Microbiology guidelines. **Do NOT send suspected or confirmed Category 3 pathogens** (contact the laboratory in advance for guidance as needed).

Transportation

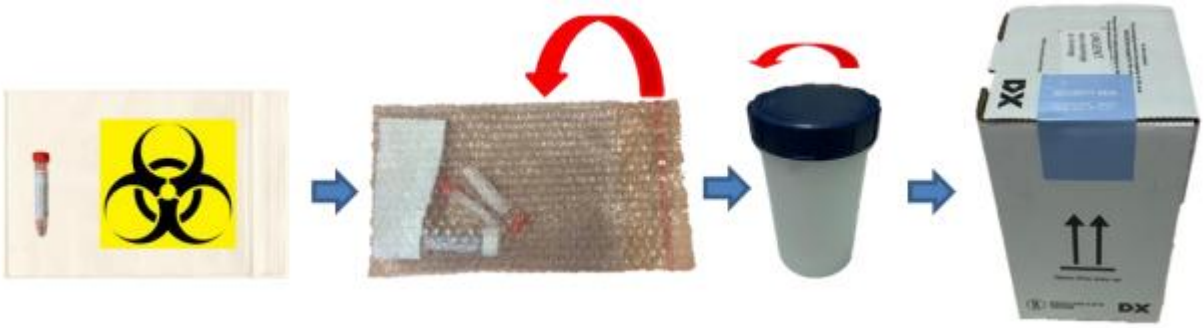
- Samples should be placed into a plastic Ziploc bag, sealed, and then placed into another sealed plastic Ziploc bag (preferably with a biohazard label on the outside), as shown below.



- Category B transport boxes or an appropriate transport bag (i.e., one which adheres to regulations governing the transportation of diagnostic specimens) must be used for transport by road or between

Manchester University Foundation Trust sites (but are not necessary within Wythenshawe hospital grounds).

- Please see below for packaging requirements.



For more information - https://mrcm.org.uk/sample-collection/

Laboratory Information

Biological interval/clinical decision values:
MIC concentrations are provided as mg/litre.

All reported clinical breakpoints are species-specific in accordance with EUCAST guidelines, except for caspofungin breakpoints, which are provided by Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI).

Where interpretation of an MIC is absent, there is insufficient evidence to set a breakpoint for the species and/or drug (see EUCAST guidance for clinical interpretation).

Clinical Information

The following susceptibility tests are performed routinely as appropriate for the species and site of infection:

Yeasts	**Moulds**
Flucytosine	Itraconazole
Fluconazole	Amphotericin
Amphotericin	Voriconazole
Itraconazole	Posaconazole
Voriconazole	Isavuconazole
Micafungin	Micafungin
Anidulafungin	Terbinafine
Posaconazole	

Susceptibility testing for other drugs, including caspofungin, are available upon request.

References:

https://www.eucast.org/fungi-afst/methodology-and-instructions/ast-of-yeasts/
https://www.eucast.org/fungi-afst/methodology-and-instructions/ast-of-moulds/
https://www.eucast.org/fungi-afst/clinical-breakpoints-and-interpretation/clinical-breakpoint-table/

(Last updated November 2026)