



MEMO

To: Regional Medical Laboratory (RML) Clients

From: Gerald C. Miller, Ph.D., Chief of Clinical Microbiology and Chemistry
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Subject: Susceptibility Testing Change

Date: December 3, 2008

Regional Medical Laboratory is pleased to announce the implementation of the Becton Dickinson (BD) Phoenix, an automated microbiology system. This system will improve efficiency as well as help manage the proliferation of rules governing antibiotic reporting. The BD Phoenix instrument will provide automated MICs, interpretations, and identifications. The instrument is **interfaced** in order to provide **quicker entry of results** into the laboratory information system (LIS) as well as **eliminating the potential for clerical errors**. The Phoenix is capable of identifying **more than 300 clinically relevant bacteria** and is able to assess the pathogen's resistance and susceptibility to antibiotics **in less than 16 hours**. The BD Epicenter in combination with the Phoenix, allows for **tracking of resistance patterns**, and applies the Expert rule system to allow only the antibiotics that are appropriate for the organism and the body site.

The **susceptibilities for the most commonly isolated pathogens** will be performed on the Phoenix **effective December 8**. The **CPT 4 code** for MICs performed on the instrument is 87186. Kirby Bauer susceptibilities or E test MICs may still be performed on certain "drug/bug" combinations. The panel of antibiotics for urine, gram negative bacilli and staphylococci are essentially the same as the ones currently reported. The gram positive panel for staphylococci will no longer include ciprofloxacin, however levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, daptomycin, and linezolid susceptibilities will be available. **D-test results on staphylococci** will be performed and reported, and will involve billing a second **CPT 4 code of 87184**. The D-test will determine inducible clindamycin resistance in staphylococcal isolates.

For questions or comments contact Linda Strycker at (918) 744-3131 ext 15575, or Gerald C. Miller at (918) 744-2553. Or contact us by email at Linda.Strycker@sjmc.org or gmiller@sjmc.org.