

Test form for the External Quality Assessment (EQA) for laboratories participating in the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Network (EARS-Net), 2025 – *Staphylococcus aureus*

Participating laboratories can only submit results online via the webtool.

This form cannot be submitted.

Kindly note, due to the Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) between DTU and the original providers of the isolate:

1. Strains received for the 2025 EARS-Net EQA cannot be re-distributed further by the recipient laboratories.
2. It is not possible for DTU or the National EARS-Net EQA Coordinator to distribute strains to laboratories after the EQA exercise, e.g. for confirmatory, training, or reference purposes.

It is recommended to store the strain in your strain collection (e.g. in a -80°C freezer), at least until you have reviewed your results from this EQA exercise. This will allow for repetition of species identification and AST, if needed, in light of your individual performance.

This form is designed to help participating laboratories prepare their results before submission in the EARS-Net EQA webtool (<https://earsnet.eqa.dtu.dk/>). It is based on the test form for 2024. In 2021–2024, the EARS-Net EQA was coordinated by DTU Food, with ECDC, through a framework contract. From 2025, the EARS-Net EQA is coordinated by DTU Food, in their capacity as a consortium member of the EURL-PH-AMR, in consultation with ECDC.

When submitting the results online in the webtool, participants will be asked for the following information:

***Staphylococcus aureus* - strain no.** _____

The isolate should be considered as being obtained from a patient with a bloodstream infection.

Oxacillin, cefoxitin and norfloxacin results should be reported, regardless of their EUCAST status as 'screen only'.

Both oxacillin and cefoxitin should be tested.

All fluoroquinolone antimicrobials (ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin and norfloxacin) should be tested, regardless of results obtained for norfloxacin.

Breakpoints currently based on ECOFF values can be used for interpretation of results, when applicable, if no other relevant EUCAST clinical breakpoints exist.

Non-reported results will not be scored, but the antimicrobials and respective empty result sections will still be visible in the individual evaluation reports.

TEST FORM METHODS

1. Please select a type of laboratory

- ☐ National reference laboratory (or laboratory with similar functions)
- ☐ Regional reference laboratory (or laboratory with similar functions)
- ☐ Local laboratory

2. Which methodology did you mainly use for antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) of this strain?

- ☐ Automated system
- ☐ Disk/Tablet diffusion
- ☐ Broth microdilution
- ☐ Gradient test
- ☐ Macro broth dilution (tubes)
- ☐ Agar dilution
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

If you have used a different AST method for some antibiotics, please change the method for the relevant antimicrobial(s) below.

In the webtool, the type of method will by default be set to the information already provided above, and be aware that the settings below will change, if you later change method above.

Antimicrobial	Method
Cefoxitin	
Ciprofloxacin	
Daptomycin	
Levofloxacin	
Linezolid	
Norfloxacin	
Oxacillin	
Rifampicin	
Vancomycin	

If you selected Automated system in the table above, please specify the instrument

- ☐ Microscan Walkaway
- ☐ Phoenix
- ☐ VITEK
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

If you selected Disk/Tablet diffusion in the table above, please specify the origin of the disks/tablets

- ☐ BD/BBL sensi disc
- ☐ Liofilchem
- ☐ MAST
- ☐ Neo sensitabs
- ☐ Oxoid

- ☐ Other– specify: _____

If you selected Disk/Tablet diffusion in the table above, please specify the origin of the agar

- ☐ BD BBL MH II Agar (Becton Dickinson)
- ☐ Biolife MH Agar II (Biolife Italiana)
- ☐ bioMérieux MHE Agar (bioMérieux)
- ☐ Bio-Rad MH Agar (Bio-Rad Laboratories)
- ☐ E&O Laboratories MH Agar (E&O Laboratories)
- ☐ Hardy Diagnostics MH Agar (Hardy Diagnostics)
- ☐ HiMedia MH Agar (HiMedia)
- ☐ HiMedia MH Agar no. 2 (HiMedia)
- ☐ Liofilchem MH II Agar (Liofilchem)
- ☐ Oxoid MH Agar (Thermo Scientific)
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

If you selected Broth microdilution in the table above, please specify the test and origin

- ☐ ComASP
- ☐ Liofilchem
- ☐ Sensititre MIC plates
- ☐ UMIC (Bruker)
- ☐ MIC plates prepared in-house
- ☐ Other– specify: _____

If you selected Broth microdilution in the table above, please specify the origin of the broth

- ☐ BD BBL
- ☐ Oxoid
- ☐ Sensititre
- ☐ Sigma-Aldrich
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

If you selected Gradient test in the table above, please specify the test and origin

- ☐ E-test (bioMérieux)
- ☐ MIC strip (Liofilchem)
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

If you selected Gradient test in the table above, please specify the origin of the agar

- ☐ BD BBL MH II Agar (Becton Dickinson)
- ☐ Biolife MH Agar II (Biolife Italiana)
- ☐ bioMérieux MHE Agar (bioMérieux)
- ☐ Bio-Rad MH Agar (Bio-Rad Laboratories)
- ☐ E&O Laboratories MH Agar (E&O Laboratories)
- ☐ Hardy Diagnostics MH Agar (Hardy Diagnostics)
- ☐ HiMedia MH Agar (HiMedia)
- ☐ HiMedia MH Agar no. 2 (HiMedia)
- ☐ Liofilchem MH II Agar (Liofilchem)
- ☐ Oxoid MH Agar (Thermo Scientific)
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

3. Which standard/guideline did you use when performing AST?

- ☐ EUCAST – specify breakpoint table version: _____
- ☐ Other – specify: _____

4. Would you normally send this (invasive!) strain to a reference or other laboratory? (Please note that the EQA strains cannot actually be redistributed further).

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

TEST FORM RESULTS

Strain ID	Antimicrobial	Results and interpretation		
		≤ / = / >	MIC value (mg/L) or zone diameter (mm)	S / I / R / NA
	Cefoxitin			
	Ciprofloxacin			
	Daptomycin			
	Levofloxacin			
	Linezolid			
	Norfloxacin			
	Oxacillin			
	Rifampicin			
	Vancomycin			