

## Instructions for Quality Control Assessment - Control Strain Susceptibility Testing

### 1.1 Quality Control assessment

- a) Quality Control strains:
  - i. *N. gonorrhoeae*, strain ATCC 49226 (F-18; Susceptible)
  - ii. *N. gonorrhoeae*, strain CDC 10328 (intermediate to Ciprofloxacin)
  - iii. *N. gonorrhoeae*, strain SPL-4 (CMRNG\*, CipHLR\*, CfxDS\*)  
*\*Abbreviations: CMRNG, strain with chromosomally mediated resistance to penicillin and tetracycline (MICs,  $\geq 2.0$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ); HLR, high-level resistance, MIC  $\geq 16.0$   $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of ciprofloxacin; CfxDS, decreased susceptibility to cefixime.*
- b) The LRRB will provide one copy (frozen) of each QC strain annually.
- c) ARLN labs are required to propagate and make multiple aliquots of each QC strain upon receiving the isolates.
  - i. MICs of QC strains should be confirmed at the time the frozen stocks are prepared.
  - ii. Make 5 copies/aliquots for each QC strain.
  - iii. QC strains are stored at  $-70$  °C in a solution of trypticase soy broth containing 20% glycerol.
  - iv. QC strains may be stored at  $-70$  °C for up to 2 years.
- d) QC strains propagation
  - i. **Do not use** QC strain that has been passed more than 10 times.
  - ii. **Sub-culture** QC strains from frozen stock every 7-10 days.  
*\*Notes 1: keep the frozen, stock culture(s) on dry-ice (use ice if dry-ice is not available.)*  
*\*Notes 2: work quickly to prevent the frozen, stock culture(s) from thawing.*  
*\*Notes 3: return the frozen, stock culture(s) to the  $-70$  °C immediately.*  
*\*Notes 4: discard the stock culture if it had been pulled from the  $-70$  °C more than 10 times.*
- e) Quality Control schedule
  - i. A QC test is performed each time a new batch of growth medium is made/purchased.
  - ii. A QC test is performed each time new batch of antimicrobial agent is used.
  - iii. A QC test is performed each time clinical isolates are tested, unless an Individualized Quality Control Plan (IQCP) is developed that states otherwise.
  - iv. QC results are recorded on QC form or along with test results.

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