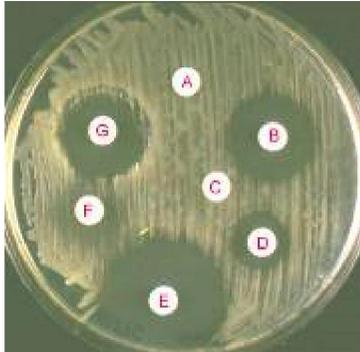




Quality Control of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Tests



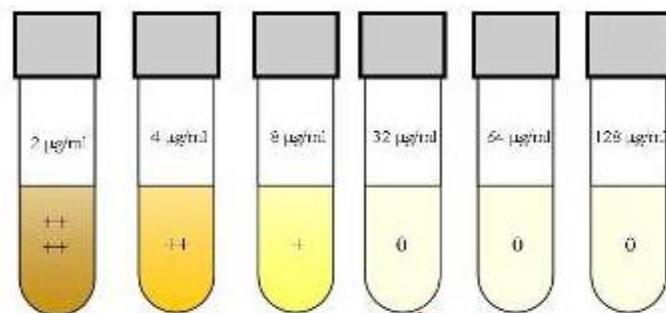
provide information for selection of an appropriate agent for antimicrobial therapy



AST Methods Interpretation

- **agar disk diffusion method** provides qualitative interpretive category results of susceptible, intermediate, and resistant
- **microdilution and agar gradient diffusion methods** provide a quantitative result, a minimum inhibitory concentration

AST Methods



Tubes with broth media, bacteria, and increasing amounts of antimicrobial

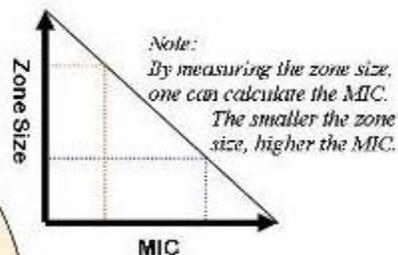
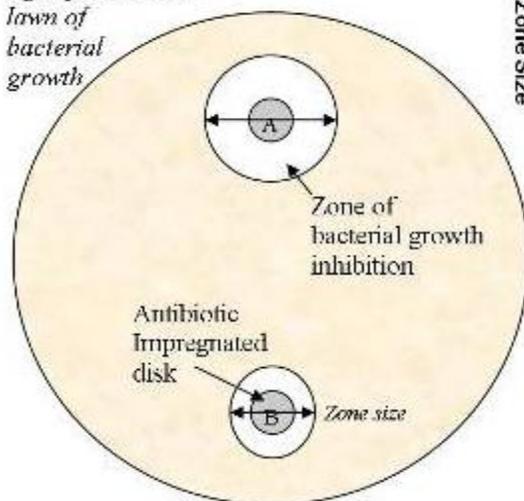
Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

Broth Dilution Susceptibility Testing

Susceptibility Testing determines if bacteria is likely to be inhibited by an antimicrobial.

Susceptibility is based on the concentration required to reduce growth below the visible level (see MIC).

Agar plate with a lawn of bacterial growth



Disk Diffusion Susceptibility Testing

Sensitive

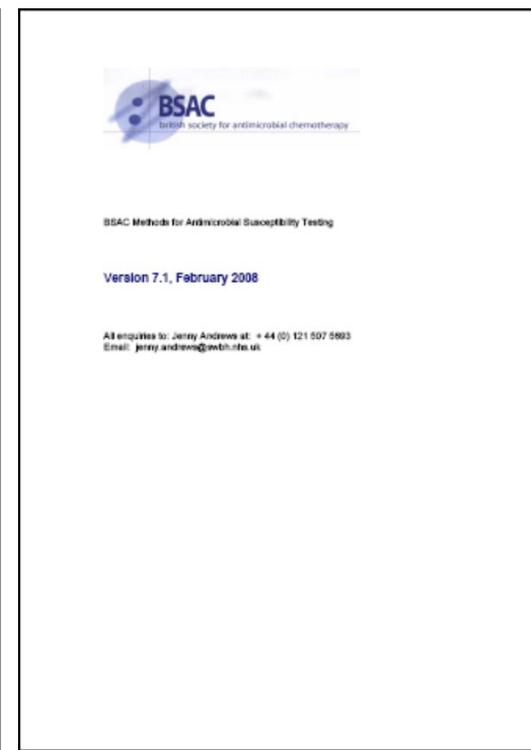
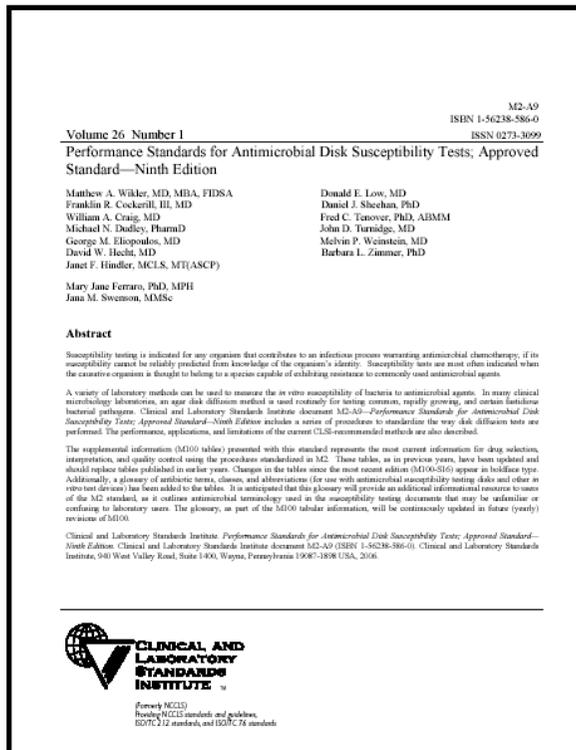
A bacteria is said to be sensitive to an antimicrobial if growth is inhibited by concentration that is **EASILY** and **SAFELY** achieved in the patient's **BLOODSTREAM**. A positive clinical response by the patient is anticipated.

Resistant

The opposite of Sensitive.

References

- Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute
- French Society of Microbiology
- British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy



Example from an excerpt from Reference: Selection of Drug to Test

Table 1. Suggested Groupings of U.S. FDA-Approved Antimicrobial Agents That Should Be Considered for Routine Testing and Reporting on **Nonfastidious** Organisms by Clinical Microbiology Laboratories

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| GROUP A PRIMARY TEST AND REPORT | Enterobacteriaceae ^g | <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and <i>Acinetobacter</i> spp. ^j | <i>Staphylococcus</i> spp. | <i>Enterococcus</i> spp. ^m |
| | Ampicillin ^g | Ceftazidime | Oxacillin ^k | Penicillin ⁿ or ampicillin |
| | Cefazolin ^a Cephalothin ^a | Gentamicin | Penicillin ^k | |
| | Gentamicin | Mezlocillin or ticarcillin Piperacillin | | |
| GROUP B SECONDARY TEST | Amikacin | Amikacin | Azithromycin ^b clarithromycin ^b or erythromycin ^b | Linezolid |
| | Amoxicillin-clavulanic acid or ampicillin-sulbactam Piperacillin-tazobactam Ticarcillin-clavulanic acid | Aztreonam Cefoperazone | | Quinupristin- dalfopristin ^q |
| | Cefamandole or cefonicid or cefuroxime | | Clindamycin ^b | Vancomycin ^o |
| | Cefepime | Cefepime | Linezolid Trimethoprim- | |



Where errors can occur in susceptibility testing

- media
- antimicrobials
- inoculum
- incubation
- equipment
- interpretation



Reference Strains

- *E. coli* ATCC 25922
- *S. aureus* ATCC 25923
- *P. aeruginosa* ATCC 27853

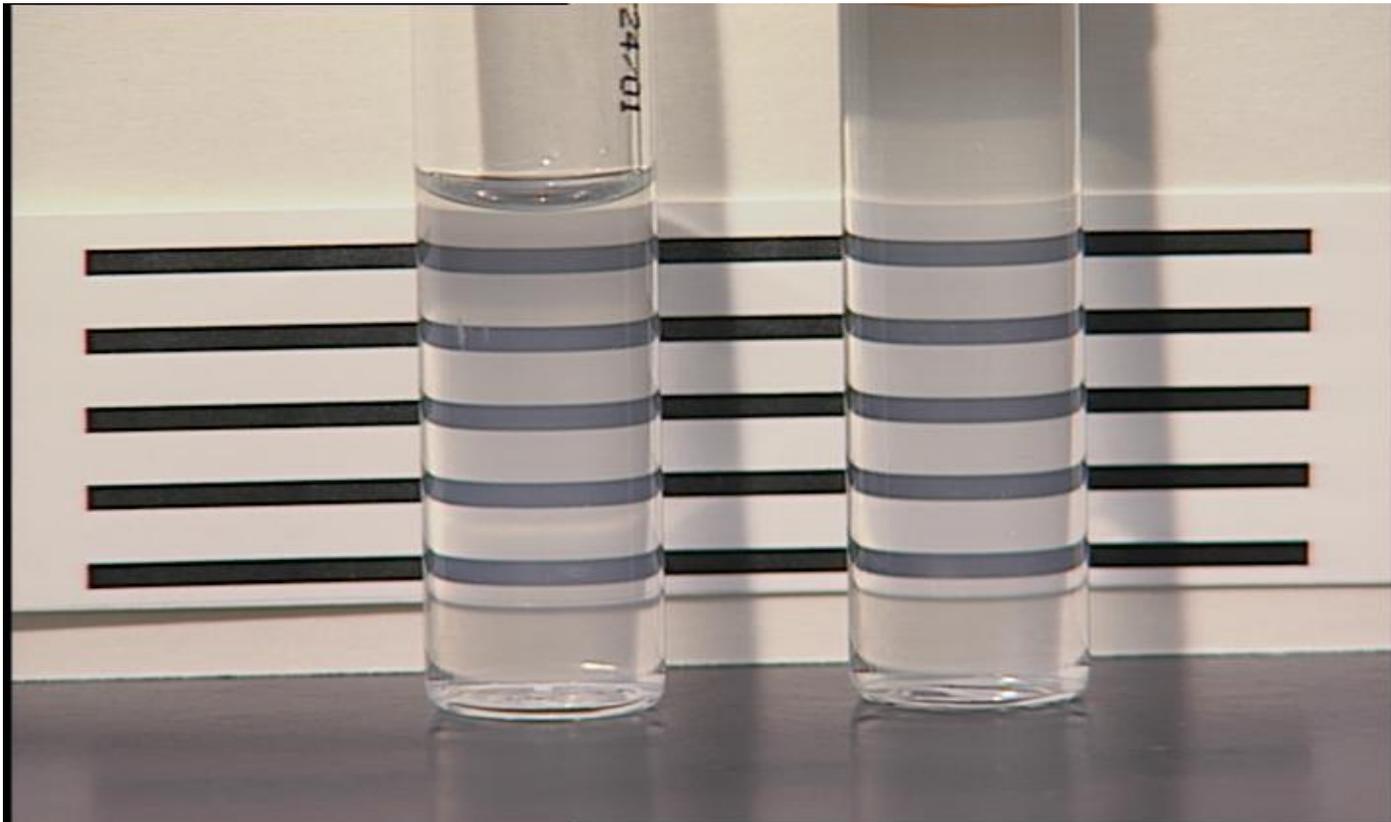
QC organisms must be obtained from reputable source

Use specific QC organisms to test different groups of “drug-bug” combinations

Selection of a Colony to Test



MacFarland 0.5 and Adjusted Test Organism



Use of Disk Dispensers

■ Advantages

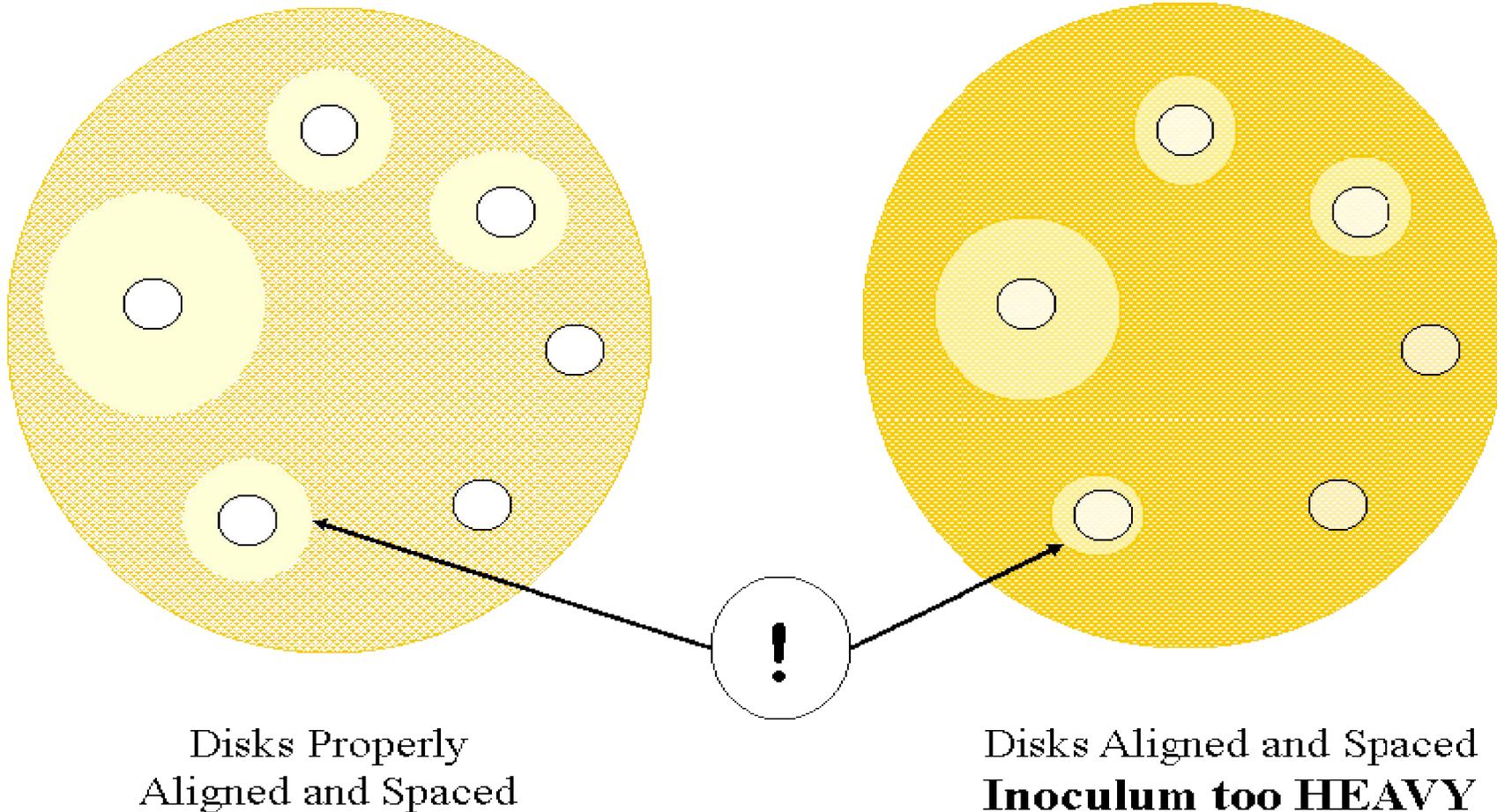
- practical, rapid
- increase reproducibility

■ Risks:

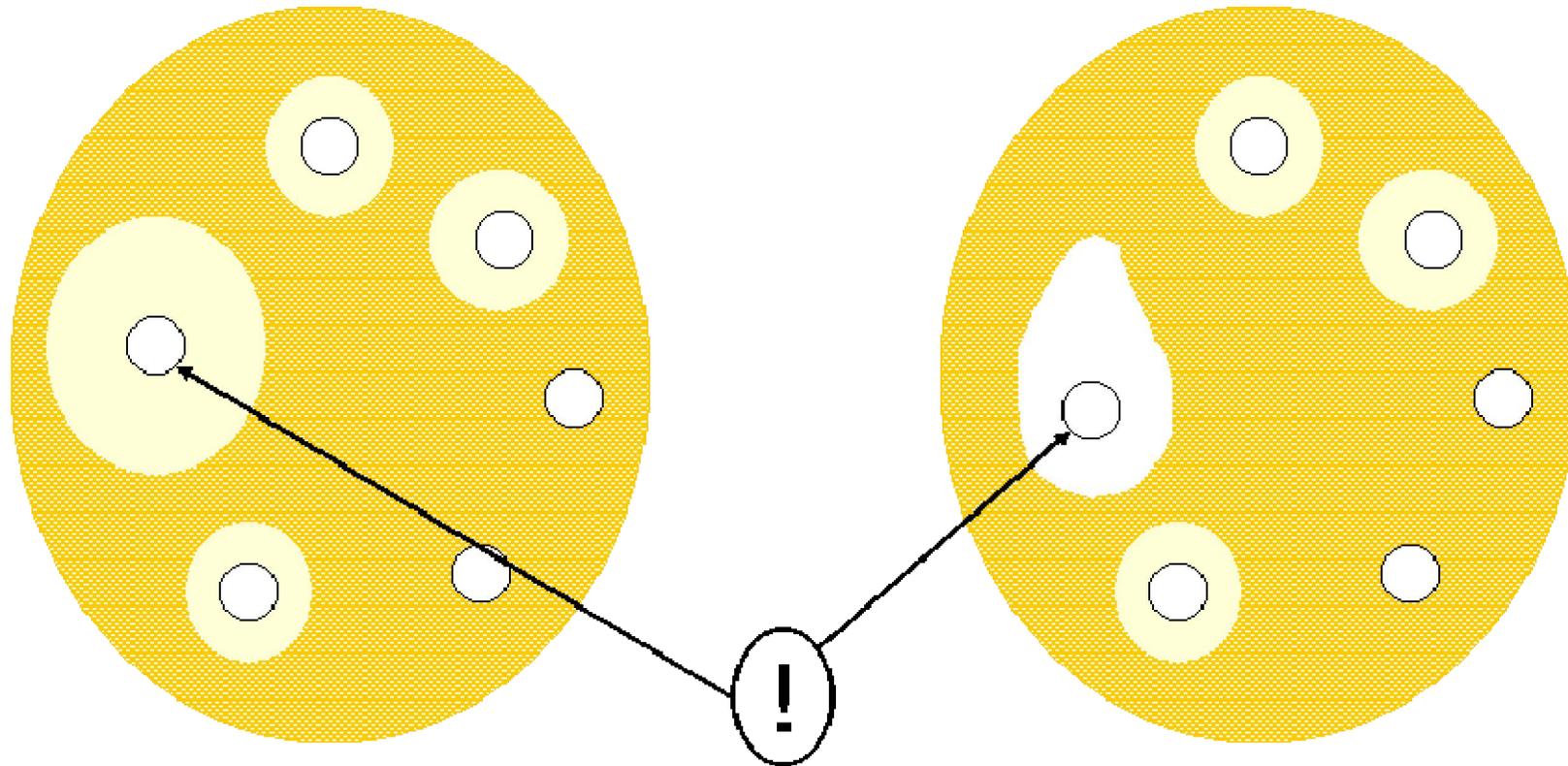
- contamination
- reduces personal judgment skills



Disk Susceptibility Testing Problems



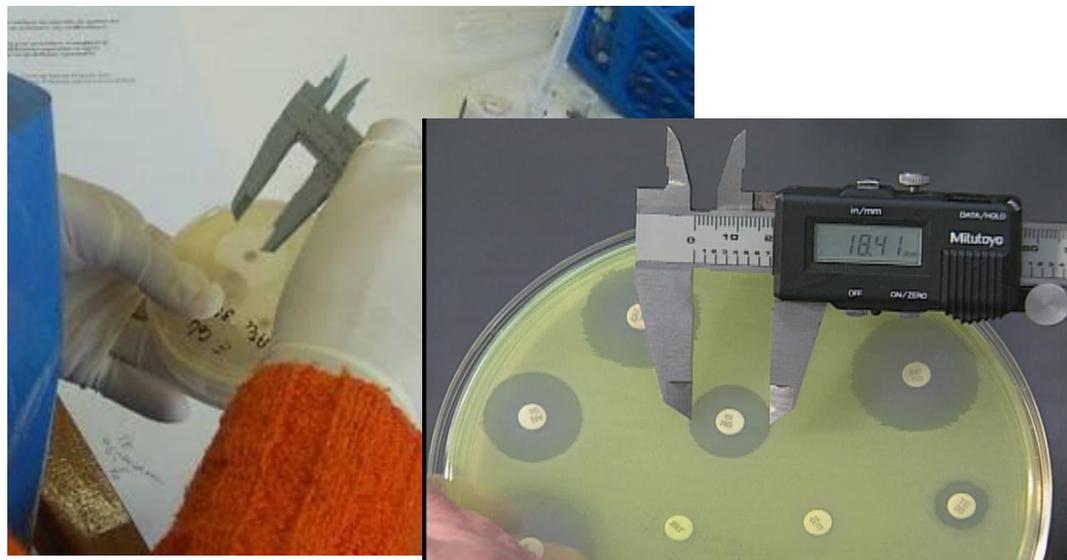
Disk Susceptibility Testing Problems



Disks Properly
Aligned and Spaced

Zone space distorted
because disk not
properly applied

Measuring Conditions



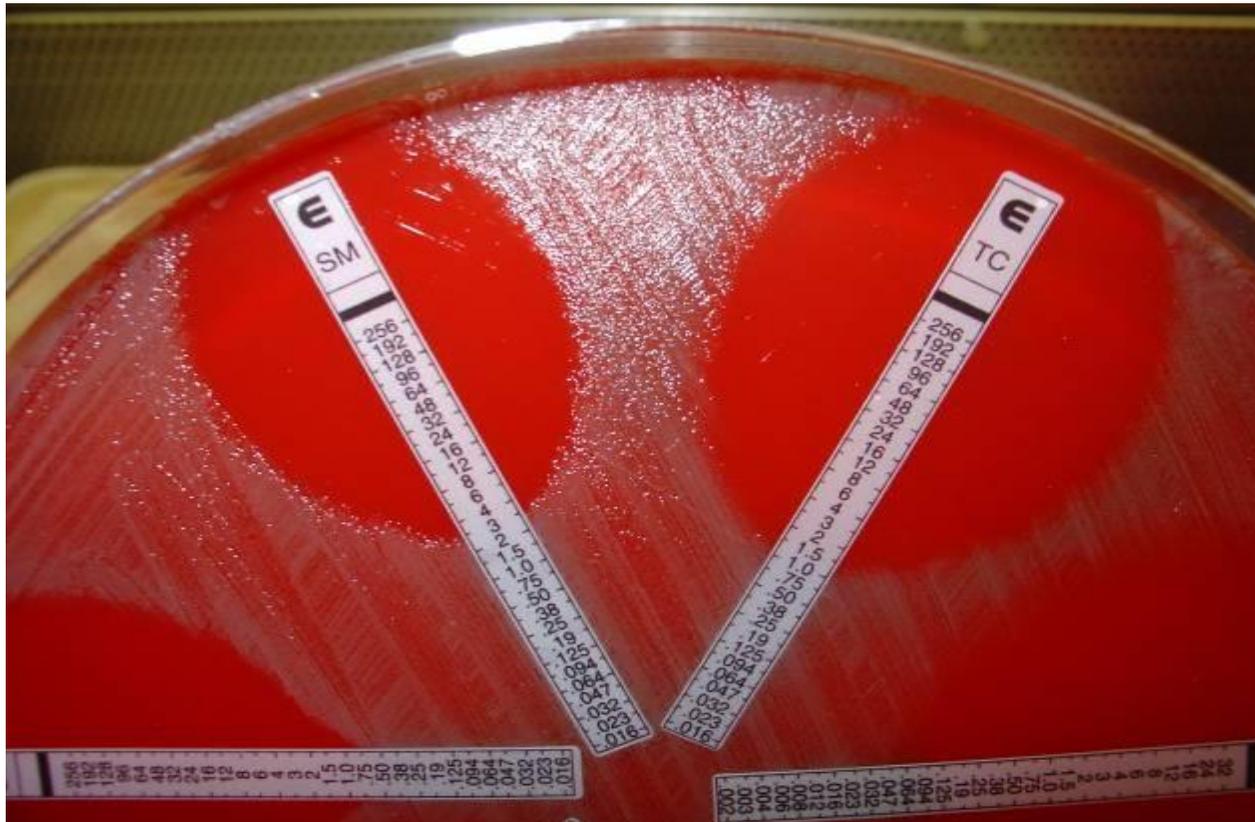
Calipers



Ruler

- read with good light, and from the back of the plate
- zone size reading is drug specific
- magnification may help
- millimeters matter

Etest – antimicrobial gradient method





Patient results may be incorrect if:

- the organism was misidentified
- a clerical error was made
- inappropriate choice of antimicrobials were tested and reported
- the wrong patient's sample was examined
- the wrong test was ordered
- the sample was not preserved properly