VCU Health

Department of Pathology Laboratories

Notification Date: 10/21/2026
Effective Date: 10/26/2026

Urine Cultures - New Reporting for Cefazolin

Effective 10/26/26, when CEFAZOLIN susceptibility results are reported on the Enterobacterales (e.g. *Escherichia coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Proteus mirabilis,* etc…) from Urine Cultures they will now be reported as "Cefazolin uncomplicated cystitis".

Explanation

- Currently, cefazolin susceptibility reporting on urine cultures is based on urine specific breakpoints for uncomplicated cystitis; moving forward, the susceptibility result name will be updated from "Cefazolin" to "Cefazolin uncomplicated cystitis" to more clearly convey this information. While cefazolin achieves high concentrations in the urine and can be effective against isolates causing uncomplicated cystitis, these breakpoints may not be appropriate for more invasive or complicated urinary tract infections (UTI).

- If cefazolin susceptibility interpretation for a Complicated UTI (utilizing serum breakpoints) is needed, please call the VCUHS Microbiology Laboratory at 804-628-4000. A comment to this effect will now be included in the susceptibility report.

- For treatment recommendations of Uncomplicated Cystitis and Complicated UTI refer to the VCU Antimicrobial Guide: https://app.eolasmedical.com/documents/viewer/FILE%236b10247a-4c14-4aa8-8bf6-87ebb9ecb4e7?shouldShowBreadcrumbs=true&shouldShowAdminOptions=true

For questions, please contact the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at (804) 628-4000, or the Main Campus Microbiology Director on-call pager at 9075.