

# Microbiology Clinical Advice

## Electronic resources

Most routine questions to the microbiology referral service can be answered by using electronic resources.



**Microbiology reports** are available electronically immediately after authorisation. Due to the formatting of our reports **we recommend using "Results Direct - Review"**.

**The laboratory does not provide updates on unauthorised results by phone.**

**All significant positive blood cultures** are phoned to the relevant clinical area by the laboratory.



This app hosts the **NHS Ayrshire & Arran Empirical Antimicrobial Policy** including **advice on syndromic microbiological sampling**, use of **gentamicin and vancomycin**, and **IV-to-oral switch therapy** if no positive cultures are available.



The **Antimicrobial Guidelines and Information page on Athena** contains additional antimicrobial prescribing guidance which falls outwith the empirical policy.

The **Laboratory Handbook** on Athena gives information on appropriate **sample containers**.

**Advice on infection control** is available on the Athena pages of the **Infection Prevention and Control Team**.

## Advice from a Consultant Microbiologist



Questions that can not be answered with the resources above **must be escalated** through the usual routes of clinical supervision **within your own team up to and including the responsible consultant**.

If a question cannot be answered within your clinical team, the following routes are available to access advice from a Consultant Microbiologist:



**Monday - Friday 09.00 - 17.00**

**Clinical\_Specialty\_Microbiology\_XH@aapct.scot.nhs.uk**



For **all routine referrals from Primary Care and in-patient wards**, e.g.: complex infections, rationalisation of antimicrobials, result interpretation.

**Referrals must include information on:** recent/current antimicrobial therapy with durations, relevant co-morbidities, drug allergies.

**The responsible clinical consultant must be copied into the e-mail message.**

A **reply to an email referral will usually be available within 2 hours if received before 3pm**. Any referrals received after this time may not be answered until the next normal working day.



**Consultants or General Practitioners can seek advice for clinically urgent referrals**, e.g.:

- acutely unwell patient with suspected sepsis
- referrals from the **Emergency Department, Critical Care, theatres**
- referrals from GPs on house visit

**by paging the Duty Microbiologist on 3213** directly or through switchboard only from Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00.

**This pager is not in use out-of-hours.**

**Where this task is delegated, the caller must be familiar with all aspect of the case including plans for treatment escalation and intervention.**



**Out-of-hours: Monday - Friday 17.00 - 09.00, Weekends, and Public Holidays**

An on-call consultant microbiologist is available for **urgent** clinical and infection control advice and can be contacted through switchboard.

**Only calls from a consultant (for clinical and/or infection control advice) or Bed Manager (for infection control advice) are accepted.**