

**ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING OF THE NONTUBERCULOUS
MYCOBACTERIA**

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Currently there are more than 120 recognized species of nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM). Antimycobacterial susceptibility should be performed on all clinically significant isolates of NTM from blood, tissue, skin and soft tissue and from respiratory samples when found in large numbers, cultures that are smear positive, and/or multiple samples. Failure to eradicate the NTM from the site after 6 months of treatment necessitates repeat susceptibility testing to assess possible development of resistance to some antimicrobials. This session will review traditional methods for antimycobacterial susceptibility testing with an emphasis on the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI, formerly NCCLS) recommended broth-based method for NTM. The CLSI published the first susceptibility guidelines for the NTM in 2003; tentative modifications to these guidelines are currently being proposed and will also be outlined in this session.