

#### 4. Urinary Tract Infections

Question	Answer
Which organisms are included in the recommendations?	Organisms associated with uncomplicated urinary tract infections, i.e. <i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. mirabilis</i> , <i>S. saprophyticus</i> , <i>Enterococcus</i> spp., Group B streptococci
What should be done with complicated infections including <i>S. epidermidis</i> and <i>S. aureus</i> ?	These are usually associated with more serious infections; therefore interpretative criteria for systemic antibiotics should be used.
Are there breakpoints for cotrimoxazole for the treatment of UTIs	See Appendix 1 version 6, " <i>Testing antimicrobial susceptibility to co-trimoxazole</i> ", for the UK Committee on Safety of Medicines recommendations.
Can trimethoprim be used for the treatment of UTIs caused by enterococci?	Recommendations were not given previously because it was thought that exogenous folate, present <i>in vivo</i> , but not present <i>in vitro</i> , would lead to false susceptible reports (Washington J. The role of the microbiology laboratory in antimicrobial susceptibility testing. <i>Infect Med</i> 16(8): 531-2 SCP Communications, Inc). However, an exhaustive literature search did not find data to support this hypothesis. Recommendations are now included in the guidelines but the subject is being reviewed again as part of the EUCAST process of harmonisation of breakpoints in Europe.
How should we deal with gaps in the recommendations for "Coliforms"?	Identification to species level is essential for correct interpretation of susceptibility and for applying expert rules. In the absence of a definitive identification, the recommendations most appropriate for the presumptive identification can be used, accepting that on some occasions the interpretation may be incorrect. A more cautious approach is to use the systemic recommendations.
Should laboratories test nalidixic acid alone to detect fluoroquinolone resistance?	Using nalidixic acid alone 25-40% of isolates with LLR to the fluoroquinolones will be reported resistant to ciprofloxacin. Organisms with low level resistance mechanisms are probably susceptible in uncomplicated infections because the concentration of drug in urine is high.