

Table 16. MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*

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Antibiotic	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)			Disc content (μg)	Interpretation of zone diameters (mm)			Comment
	R >	I	S \leq		R \leq	I	S \geq	
Penicillins								
Penicillin	1	0.12	0.06	1 unit	17	18-25	26	Test for β -lactamase.
Cephalosporins								
Cefixime	1	1	0.5	5	29	-	30	Resistance to ceftriaxone, cefotaxime and cefixime has not been described. Isolates with chromosomally encoded reduced susceptibility to penicillin have slightly reduced zones of inhibition with these agents but they remain susceptible. Results for isolates with reduced zones around ceftriaxone, cefotaxime and cefixime discs should be confirmed by MIC determinations. Although cefuroxime is not recommended for clinical use, it can be used as an indicator antibiotic to detect reduced susceptibility to other oxyimino cephalosporin. For cefixime the MIC breakpoint has changed but a review of the data indicates that no adjustment of the zone diameter breakpoints is necessary.
Cefotaxime	0.12	-	0.12	5	29	-	30	
Ceftriaxone	0.12	-	0.12	5	34	-	35	
Cefuroxime (Screen)	-	-	-	5	19	-	20	
Quinolones								
Ciprofloxacin	0.06	0.06	0.03	1	28	-	29	For ciprofloxacin the zone diameter breakpoints relate to the MIC breakpoint of 0.03mg/L as no data for the intermediate category are currently available. Quinolone resistance is generally reliably detected with nalidixic acid; however there are a few isolates that are resistant to ciprofloxacin yet susceptible to nalidixic acid in disc diffusion tests. The mechanism of resistance and the prevalence of these isolates in the UK is still under investigation. Isolates with reduced susceptibility to fluoroquinolones normally have no zone of inhibition with a 30 μg nalidixic acid disc. For organisms with nalidixic acid zone diameters 10-31 mm a ciprofloxacin MIC should be determined if the patient is to be treated with this agent.
Nalidixic acid	-	-	-	30	9	10-31	32	

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	R >	I	S ≤		R ≤	I	S ≥	
Miscellaneous antibiotics								
Azithromycin	0.5	0.5	0.25	15	27	-	28	Zone diameter breakpoints relate to the MIC breakpoints of >0.5 mg/L as disc diffusion testing will not reliably differentiate between the intermediate and susceptible populations.
Rifampicin	1	-	1	2	20	-	21	NO EUCAST MIC breakpoint as there is insufficient clinical evidence. BSAC data used.
Spectinomycin	64	-	64	25	13	-	14	
Tetracycline	1	1	0.5	10	26	27-31	32	The tetracycline result may be used to infer susceptibility to doxycycline.