

Table 17. MIC and zone diameter breakpoints for *Neisseria meningitidis*

Antibiotic	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)			Disc content (µg)	Interpretation of zone diameters (mm)			Comment
	R >	I	S ≤		R ≤	I	S ≥	
Penicillins								
Ampicillin	-	-	-	2	31	-	32	Ampicillin and amoxicillin are used as indicator antibiotics to detect reduced susceptibility to penicillin. The recommendations given are for this purpose only; ampicillin and amoxicillin should not be used therapeutically. EUCAST suggest an MIC BP of 0.12/1, currently there are no MIC BPs and zone diameter BPs relate to the presence of a resistance mechanism.
Amoxicillin	-	-	-	2	29	-	30	
Penicillin	0.06	-	0.06	1 unit	30	-	31	
Cephalosporins								
Cefotaxime	0.12	-	0.12	5	39	-	40	
Ceftriaxone	0.12	-	0.12	5	39	-	40	
Quinolones								
Ciprofloxacin	0.06	0.06	0.03	1	31	-	32	Quinolone resistance is most reliably detected in tests with nalidixic acid. Isolates with reduced susceptibility to fluoroquinolones have no zone of inhibition with 30 µg nalidixic acid discs. Zone diameter breakpoints relate to the MIC breakpoint of 0.03 mg/L as no data for the intermediate category are currently available.
Miscellaneous antibiotics								
Chloramphenicol	4	4	2	10	19	-	20	Zone diameter breakpoints relate to the MIC breakpoint of 2 mg/L as insufficient data to distinguish the intermediate category are currently available.
Rifampicin	0.25	-	0.25	2	29	-	30	Epidemiological breakpoint based on an MIC breakpoint of 0.25 mg/L.