

## **Determining the susceptibility of *Moraxella catarrhalis* to ampicillin/amoxycillin with the BSAC agar dilution method**

When the BSAC MIC agar dilution method<sup>1</sup> is used to determine the susceptibility of *M. catarrhalis* to ampicillin and amoxycillin, an inoculum of  $10^6$ cfu/spot, rather than the standard  $10^4$ cfu/spot is required to obtain the correct result. Studies undertaken by Yeo et al<sup>2</sup> have confirmed that the heavier inoculum is needed to avoid reporting b-lactamase-producing strains as susceptible. Alternatively, a test for b-lactamase production can be used to infer resistance. However, it must be remembered that b-lactamase positive isolates of *M. catarrhalis* are often slow to become positive and tests for b-lactamase production must be examined after the longest recommended time for the test before being interpreted as negative.

### **References**

1. MIC determinations JAC Supplement (in press).
2. *Effect of inoculum size on the in-vitro susceptibility to beta-lactam antibiotics of Moraxella catarrhalis isolates of different beta-lactamase types.* Yeo SF and Livermore DM, J. of Med. Microbiology, 1994 Apr. **40**(4) 252-5.