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## Methods for Determining Bactericidal Activity of Antimicrobial Agents; Approved Guideline

This document provides procedures for determining the lethal activity of antimicrobial agents.

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## Methods for Determining Bactericidal Activity of Antimicrobial Agents; Approved Guideline

### Abstract

Established laboratory methods that can assess the bactericidal activity of an antimicrobial agent are needed, both because of the increase in the number of patients who do not have completely normal host immune defenses and because of the new classes of antimicrobial agents that have been introduced. Clinical cure depends largely upon host factors. Bactericidal tests can provide a rough prediction of bacterial eradication. It should be noted, however, that other factors (e.g., postantibiotic effect and the growth-inhibitory effects of sub-MIC concentrations of antibiotics) may also impact bacteriologic response of patients. The special susceptibility tests that assess lethal activity are not routinely applied to all microorganisms, but are applied in unusual situations; e.g., endocarditis. Uniform test procedures are thus needed to permit comparison of different datasets.

The methods for bactericidal testing are now evolving, but more work is needed with the methodological aspects and clinical correlations. The techniques described in this document are intended primarily for testing aerobic bacteria that grow after incubation in adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth or adjusted Mueller-Hinton broth supplemented with human serum or an ultrafiltrate thereof.

(NCCLS. *Methods for Determining Bactericidal Activity of Antimicrobial Agents; Approved Guideline*. NCCLS document M26-A [ISBN 1-56238-384-1]. NCCLS, 940 West Valley Road, Suite 1400, Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087 USA, 1999.)

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## Methods for Determining Bactericidal Activity of Antimicrobial Agents; Approved Guideline

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### **Proposed Guideline**

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### **Tentative Guideline**

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