



Dear Colleagues:

At the AMMI/CACMID annual meeting, bioMérieux, Canada announced the rollout of new rules for the VITEK® 2 bioART which will flag and or report multidrug resistance (MDR) and extensively drug resistance (XDR) for *Enterobacteriales* and XDR for *Acinetobacter* spp. and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. These rules are based on recent Canadian recommendations developed by the AMR Sub-committee of the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) and the Canadian Association of Clinical Microbiologists and Infectious Diseases (CACMID¹). While implementation of these rules is optional, the CPHLN AMR working group encourages laboratories to utilize this new information for many purposes including:

1. laboratory reports to clinicians; which may assist in stewardship or antibiotic selection;
2. incorporating the data into surveillance programs and local antibiogram reports;
3. consideration of implementing infection control alerts or precautions similar to what Quebec has done for risk group 1 and risk group 2 organisms

The CPHLN AMR WG also encourages local laboratories to work with provincial public health laboratories to aggregate MDR and XDR data for these pathogens. This information could then be collected by the National Microbiology Laboratory to produce a national report based on standardized data for MDR and XDR pathogens.

The announcement from bioMérieux Canada represents a new opportunity to monitor and potentially reduce the spread of these emerging drug resistant pathogens. We encourage laboratories to adopt these new rules when possible. CPHLN will continue to assist all vendors on implementation of these Canadian guidelines. Please direct any questions or comments to CPHLN@phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Samir Patel, Co-Chair CPHLN AMR Working Group

Dr. Michael Mulvey, Co-Chair CPHLN AMR Working Group

Dr. Greg German, past Co-Chair CPHLN AMR Working Group

¹ German GJ, Gilmour M, Tipples G, Adam HJ, Almohri H, Bullard J, Dingle T, Farrell D, Girouard G, Haldane D, Hoang L, Levett PN, Melano R, Minion J, Needle R, Patel SN, Rennie R, Reyes RC, Longtin J, Mulvey MR. Canadian recommendations for laboratory interpretation of multiple or extensive drug resistance in clinical isolates of Enterobacteriaceae, *Acinetobacter* species and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Canadian Communicable Disease Reports. 2018; 44:29-34.