PREVAIL Site Guidance Note – Storing and Transporting Rifampicin Resistant Isolates V2.0

Background

PREVAIL are funded to investigate those species detected as rifampicin resistant on E-test strip testing. The analyses will hopefully help to establish whether resistant isolates are related (for example as a result of intra- unit spread) and also to identify the mechanisms of rifampicin resistance in bacteria. The whole genome sequencing will be carried out at Public Health England's lab at Colindale by Neil Woodford's team.

PREVAIL Team Responsibilities

The PREVAIL team will source a stock of "Pro-lab" bead storage tubes. These are suitable for long term storage of identified resistant isolates. Each site will be sent 4 vials of Pro-lab storage beads.

Site Responsibilities

As a matter of course the laboratory should be made aware that storage of rifampicin resistant organisms will be needed.

The laboratory team will inoculate the beads and store the organism locally in the freezer at -20 ^{o}C or a lower temperature, pending transfer to Colindale which will be arranged at the end of the intervention phase of the trial. Sites will them use their local transport contracts (for example with Hays DX) to move the frozen specimens to Colindale.

Instructions for the use of Prolab beads are here: http://www.pro-lab-direct.com/v/vspfiles/microbank/microbank-wwp-portfolio.pdf

Definition of Resistant Isolates

The BSAC break points for staphylococci should be referenced when determining whether or not an isolate is resistant to Rifampicin. For organisms other than staphylococci an MIC of >0.5mg/L should be treated as resistant.

Renumeration

Sites will be remunerated £25 per organism stored and sent to Colindale. PREVAIL will remunerate sites for any transport costs via the sites usual carrier which are incurred above usual activity in transporting PREVAIL specimens to Colindale.

Sam Oddie for PREVAIL team