Susceptibility testing challenges with ceftaroline, MRSA, and a 1-mg/L breakpoint David M Livermore^{1,2*}, Shazad Mushtaq¹, Marina Warner,¹ Dorothy James¹ and Neil Woodford¹ ¹Antimicrobial Resistance & Healthcare Associated Infections Reference Unit, Public Health England; Medical School, ²Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia, Norwich, Norfolk *Corresponding author: Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia, Bob Champion Research & Education Building, James Watson Road, Norwich, UK. **NR4 7UQ** Tel +44-(0)1603-597-568 d.livermore@uea.ac.uk Keywords: Disc susceptibility tests, Etests, Meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus Running head: Disc tests for ceftaroline with MRSA

31 Abstract.

Background. A 1 mg/L susceptibility breakpoint for ceftaroline and staphylococci is 32 33 universally agreed; EUCAST counts MIC >1 mg/L as resistant; CLSI and FDA count 2 34 mg/L as intermediate and >2 mg/L resistant. We investigated whether routine 35 diagnostic tests reliably distinguish MICs of 1 versus 2 mg/L. Methods. Thirty-five UK laboratories collected Staphylococcus aureus isolates and performed tests with 5 µg 36 (as EUCAST) or 30 µg (as CLSI) discs and either confluent growth on Mueller-Hinton 37 38 agar (as EUCAST and CLSI) or semi-confluent growth on IsoSensitest agar (as 39 BSAC). They also ran Etests for MRSA. Reference MICs were determined centrally by 40 CLSI and BSAC agar dilution. **Results**. 1607 S. aureus (33% MRSA) had paired local disc and central MIC results. EUCAST's zone breakpoint recognised 56% of isolates 41 42 found resistant in MIC tests, but the positive predictive value (PPV) for resistance was 11.0%; corresponding proportions by CLSI testing were 28.0% and 13.4%. The BSAC 43 disc method detected 25% of resistant isolates, with a PPV of 18.2%. Agreement, +1 44 dilution, of local Etests and central agar MICs was >95%, but only 20% of the isolates 45 46 found non-susceptible by agar dilution were found non-susceptible by Etest, and viceversa. Review for isolates with the modal MIC (0.25 mg/L) indicated that the same 47 laboratories reported large or small zones irrespective of disc and method, implying 48 systematic bias. Conclusion. MRSA with ceftaroline MICs of 1 and 2 mg/L were 49 50 poorly discriminated by routine methods. Solutions lie in greater standardisation, 51 automation, or dosages justifying a higher breakpoint.

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53 Introduction

Ceftaroline is a recently-licensed cephalosporin that binds and inactivates PBP2' (PBP2a), which determines meticillin resistance in staphylococci.¹ Phase III trials in skin and skin structure infection (SSSI) indicated non-inferiority to vancomycin and equivalent efficacy against meticillin-resistant and -susceptible *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA and MSSA).² Case reports suggest anti-MRSA efficacy in various off-label settings, where use deserved more formal investigation, including diabetic foot infections³ and endocarditis.⁴

MICs for most MRSA are 0.25-1 mg/L, compared with 0.12-0.25 mg/L for 61 MSSA.¹ MICs of 2 mg/L are found for c. 5% of MRSA in most trials and surveys⁵⁻⁷ 62 though for 19.4% of isolates in one study in the Far East.⁸ MICs exceeding 2 mg/L are 63 64 extremely rare, but values of 4 mg/L were found for four MRSA from Greece. These had diverse mutations to PBP2',⁹ as did isolates with MICs 2-4 mg/L from Germany.¹⁰ 65 A cystic fibrosis isolate with an MIC >32 mg/L also had a modified PBP2'.¹¹ EUCAST 66 has set breakpoints of S <1 mg/L, R >1 mg/L,¹² whereas the US Food and Drug 67 68 Administration (FDA) and CLSI both have values of S <1, I=2 and R >2. EUCAST, CLSI and BSAC have set zone breakpoints corresponding to these values, 12-15 but it 69 70 is uncertain whether diagnostic laboratories can reliably distinguish the minorities of isolates with reduced susceptibility under 'real-life' conditions.¹⁰ To test this, we 71 72 recruited a panel of UK laboratories to test consecutive S. aureus isolates by disc and Etest methods and to refer the results, along with the isolates themselves, which then 73 74 had MICs determined centrally. Results of the local and central testing were compared. 75

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77 Materials and methods

78 SSSI survey

The SSSI survey, in which isolates were collected, has been described elsewhere.¹⁶ 79 Briefly we recruited 40 UK diagnostic microbiology laboratories, and asked each to 80 collect 60 consecutive clinically-significant SSSI isolates from hospitalised patients, 81 also a subsequent 15 MRSA from SSSIs. Collection ran from August 2012 to 82 83 December 2013 and 35 of the 40 laboratories contributed isolates (See Acknowledgements): 29 sites were in England, three in Scotland, two in Wales and 84 one in Northern Ireland. S. aureus dominated the collection, and is the only species 85 86 considered here.

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88 Local susceptibility testing

The laboratories were asked to perform susceptibility tests with 5 and 30 μ g discs on 89 their S. aureus isolates following: (i) British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy 90 (BSAC) methodology with semi-confluent growth and IsoSensitest agar,¹⁷ and (ii) 91 EUCAST/CLSI protocols with Mueller-Hinton agar and confluent growth.¹⁸ The 5 and 92 93 30 µg discs were from Oxoid-Thermofisher, Basingstoke, UK and Mast Diagnostics, 94 Merseyside, UK, respectively; they were from single batches and were supplied centrally. Laboratories were also asked to determine ceftaroline MICs for their MRSA 95 96 (not MSSA) isolates using Etests (bioMerieux, Basingstoke, UK, again from a single 97 batch), following the manufacturer's protocol, with Mueller-Hinton agar and confluent 98 growth.

Except for discs and Etests, all other materials, including agars and diluents
 were sourced locally by the laboratories, as in routine practice. All sites held UK Clinical
 Pathology Accreditation.

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103 Central laboratory testing

Isolates collected by the participating laboratories were also sent to the Antimicrobial
 Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections Reference Unit (AMRHAI) where

they were confirmed as *S. aureus* with Chromagar *Staph aureus* (Chromagar, Paris,
France), with PCR to seek *mecA*.¹⁹ MICs of ceftaroline (AstraZeneca, Macclesfield,
UK) were determined by BSAC agar dilution²⁰ on IsoSensitest agar (OxoidThermofisher, Basingstoke, UK) and by CLSI agar dilution²¹ on Mueller Hinton agar
(Oxoid).

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112 Results

Paired local disc tests and central MIC results were obtained for 1076 MSSA and for 531 MRSA, with local Etest results available for 525 of the MRSA. These totals differ minimally from the SSSI survey report,¹⁶ owing to inclusion of a few isolates received as 'supplementary MRSA' that proved to be MSSA on reference laboratory testing. Numbers of *S. aureus* per site ranged from six to 47, with a mean of 28.

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119 Agreement within central susceptibility testing at AMRHAI

MIC tests by the two agar dilution methods were run in parallel at AMRHAI. With 11 (0.7%) exceptions among the 1607 isolates, MICs by CLSI agar dilution equalled those by BSAC agar dilution or were two-fold higher (Table 1). MICs of 2 mg/L were found for 25 MRSA isolates by CLSI methodology (considered intermediate) and for eight of these (and no others) by BSAC methodology (considered resistant). No MICs exceeded 2 mg/L by either method (i.e. none of the isolates were considered resistant by CLSI criteria).

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128 Agreement of local disc and central MIC testing

A relationship existed between the zones found locally and the MICs found centrally, 129 such that mean zone diameters reduced as MICs rose (Table 2). Nevertheless 130 correlation coefficients for zone versus log MIC were unimpressive, at 0.56 and 0.47 131 for 5 and 30 µg discs, respectively, on IsoSensitest agar with semi-confluent growth 132 and 0.63 and 0.54, respectively for the same discs on Mueller-Hinton agar with 133 134 confluent growth. Irrespective of the combination of method and disc type, there was 135 considerable overlap of the zone sizes for isolates with MICs of 2 mg/L and those for 136 isolates with lower MICs.

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138 Disc-based categorisation with EUCAST and CLSI criteria

EUCAST specifies interpretive criteria of R <20 mm, S >20 mm using a 5 µg ceftaroline 139 disc on Mueller-Hinton agar with confluent growth. This recognised as resistant only 140 141 14/25 (56%) isolates with MICs >1 mg/L (by the CLSI method; Table 2, panel 1). 142 However 113 susceptible isolates were mis-categorised as resistant, giving a false resistance rate of 7.1% and leading to a 'resistant' result having a positive predictive 143 144 value (PPV) of just 11.0%. CLSI has interpretive criteria of R <20 mm; I, 21-23 mm and S >24 mm for a 30 μ g disc, again on Mueller-Hinton agar with confluent growth. 145 No isolates counted as resistant using CLSI's MIC criteria (>2 mg/L) and, among the 146 147 25 that scored as intermediate (MIC 2 mg/L) the disc method correctly recognised only seven (28%; Table 2, panel 2). Five fully-susceptible isolates gave zones of <20 mm, 148 equating to a false resistance (major error) rate of 0.3%, and 40 gave zones of 21-23 149 150 mm. The PPV of a non-susceptible zone result was 13.4%.

The BSAC did not have zone breakpoints for ceftaroline at the time of this study, but has since published values of R \leq 19 mm, S \geq 20 mm for 5 µg discs, which are slightly more liberal those of EUCAST, despite the less rich medium and lighter inoculum. These values correctly categorised only two of the eight isolates with MICs

of 2 mg/L as resistant (25%); nine susceptible isolates (0.5%) were mis-classified as resistant and the PPV of a resistant result was 18.2%. A breakpoint of R \leq 23 mm correctly discriminated all eight isolates with MICs of 2 mg/L, but led to 207/1599 susceptible isolates being mis-categorised as resistant, meaning that the false resistance rate rose to 12.9% with a PPV for a resistant result of only 3.7%. Discrimination with 30 µg discs was even poorer.

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162 Agreement of local Etest to central MIC tests

After rounding to match the normal doubling dilution scale, 500/525 (95.3%) of locally-163 determined Etest MICs were in essential agreement (i.e. +1 doubling dilution) with the 164 165 values found centrally by CLSI agar dilution, taken as a reference (Table 3). Nevertheless, discrimination between MICs of 1 and 2 mg/L remained poor: Among 166 the 25 isolates with MICs of 2 mg/L by CLSI agar dilution, just five (20%) were found 167 non-susceptible by Etest, with MICs of 1.5-2 mg/L. Counterwise, among 24 isolates 168 with MICs of 1.5-4 mg/L by Etest, just five were found non-susceptible by agar dilution 169 170 MICs. These data indicate 20% sensitivity for detection of MIC 2 mg/L, a false resistance/non-susceptibility rate of 4% and a PPV, for a 'non-susceptible' result 171 predicting true resistance of 20%. 172

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174 Differences in zone results among sites

The generally poor agreement between local and central results led us to consider cross-method agreement within sites. We reviewed laboratories' zone data for all isolates where the central laboratory had found an MIC of 0.25 mg/L. This was the modal MIC by each method, found for 967 isolates by the BSAC method and 1011 by the CLSI technique; it remained the modal MIC for all batches of isolates tested

centrally, indicating testing consistency. We then calculated, for each laboratory and
test type, the mean zone diameters for isolates with this MIC (Table 4).

The mean zones for these isolates on Mueller-Hinton agar varied among 182 183 laboratories by 7.4 mm with 30 µg discs and 6.5 mm with 5 µg discs. Corresponding variations on IsoSensitest agar were 5.8 and 4.6 mm, respectively. There was 184 extremely strong correlation between the mean zones found for the two disc contents 185 186 within each method (r= 0.93 within Mueller-Hinton/confluent growth and 0.91 within IsoSensitest/semi-confluent) and weaker correlation between results for the same disc 187 type between the two different methods (r= 0.61 for 30 μ g discs and 0.62 for 5 μ g 188 discs). These relationships are unsurprising because, within each method, the two 189 discs would ordinarily be tested on the same plate with the same depth and inoculum, 190 191 whereas the media and inocula differ between the methods. Nevertheless correlation 192 coefficients of 0.61-0.62 suggest a relationship, and inspection shows that the 193 laboratories which found the largest and smallest zone diameters for one combination 194 of method and disc did so also for other combinations (Table 4).

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196 Discussion

197 The FDA, EUCAST and CLSI all agree a susceptible breakpoint of 1 mg/L for ceftaroline, based on the licensed 600 mg every 12 hours regimen, pharmacodynamic 198 analysis and Monte Carlo simulation.¹⁴ This breakpoint divides around 5% of UK 199 200 MRSA as resistant; the proportion may be higher or lower elsewhere according to 201 locally prevalent strains, though MICs >2 mg/L seem to be rare everywhere. Unlike EUCAST, CLSI and FDA categorise MICs of 2 mg/L as intermediate. Rationales for 202 the intermediate category have not been published: some pharmacodynamic analyses 203 do support a 2 mg/L breakpoint based on the 600 mg every 12 hours regimen;²² 204 alternatively CLSI (unlike EUCAST) sometimes includes an intermediate category as 205

a buffer zone to minimise "major" and "very major" errors. In Phase III SSSI clinical trials ceftaroline achieved cures in 142/152 MRSA cases,² but the proportion of isolates with MICs of 2 mg/L was tiny. The present study sought to establish whether diagnostic laboratories could reliably use these breakpoints -and corresponding zone values- to distinguish isolates with MICs of 1 *versus* 2 mg/L.

We found that, in routine use, none of the combinations of disc and method 211 achieved a satisfactory balance of sensitivity and PPV for resistance detection. 212 213 EUCAST's <20 mm breakpoint with 5 µg discs detected 56% of resistant (on EUCAST criteria) isolates, but at the price of categorising many susceptible isolates as resistant, 214 so that the PPV for a resistant zone result was only 11.0%. 215 CLSI's susceptible/intermediate breakpoint of 23 mm for 30 µg discs recognised just 28% of 216 217 the isolates with MICs 2 mg/L as non-susceptible, with a PPV of 13.4%. A breakpoint 218 (this study) of 23 mm for the BSAC method with 5 μ g discs recognised all resistant 219 isolates, but had a derisory PPV of 3.7%; the BSAC's subsequently-published R <19 mm¹⁶ value detected only two of eight resistant isolates, with a PPV of 18.2%. Zone 220 breakpoints could be adjusted to improve detection sensitivity for resistance or to 221 increase the PPV, but these two criteria are counterpoised, meaning that any change 222 223 to improve one will worsen the other. Gradient strips are widely advocated when disc 224 tests are unreliable but, although essential agreement to agar dilution MICs was excellent at 95%, minor disagreements again meant that the detection sensitivity for 225 isolates with an MIC of 2 mg/L was only 20%, with a PPV of 20%. Like others¹¹ we 226 227 found that MICs by Etest were commonly one doubling dilution below those by dilution 228 methodology.

The present analysis is disappointing compared with EUCAST's published study,¹² which found 92% categorical agreement between ceftaroline disc and MIC tests for MRSA. The likely explanation is that the EUCAST study included a tight quality

control specifically for ceftaroline whereas we took the view that laboratories had
general quality control for susceptibility testing and wished to assess likely variability
in real-life conditions.

235 To further investigate inter-site variation we reviewed zones for all isolates where the central laboratory found an MIC of 0.25 mg/L and, irrespective of disc and 236 237 method, found substantial variation in different laboratories' mean zones for these 'homogeneous' isolates. Variation was greater by CLSI/EUCAST methodology than by 238 239 BSAC (Table 4) perhaps because standardisation to the BSAC method was more 240 familiar to UK laboratories, or because it is inherently easier, with a single manufacturer of the base medium (IsoSensitest agar) and with semi-confluent growth that can easily 241 be judged as adequate or not by eye. Strikingly, the same laboratories obtained the 242 largest and smallest zones irrespective of the disc content or method. This implies 243 244 that differences in inocula, agar depth or how zones are read, are the major arbiter of variation, not variation in media or disc guality (which was a source of recent comment 245 and concern²³). 246

247 Three solutions might be proposed. First, disc testing and reading might be made more precise. Secondly, automated systems --which do not depend on the 248 249 human eye to judge a zone edge or the end of growth on a gradient strip- might replace disc testing. Thirdly, ceftaroline might be dosed at levels to justify a higher breakpoint. 250 251 EUCAST stresses that zones for control strains should fall in the middle of the 252 published quality control ranges and that laboratories consistently obtaining results at 253 the extremes of ranges or >1 mm either side of the expected value, should review their performance;²⁴ the International Standards Organisation is also taking an interest in 254 the improved standardisation of disc testing. Both these organisations can do much 255 to encourage improved quality, precision and reproducibility of disc testing, 256 nevertheless zone scatter of +3 mm per doubling dilution between tests and 257 laboratories is not uncommon, meaning that MICs of 1 and 2 mg/L seem certain ot 258

remain hard to discriminate by diffusion testing. With regard to dosage, a trial of ceftaroline at 600 every 8 hours instead of every 12 hours has recently been completed in bacteraemic SSSI (Clinical Trials Identifier NCT01499277 https://clinicaltrials.gov) and may justify a 2 mg/L breakpoint.

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			Ν	/IC by BS	AC metho	d			Total	Total	Grand
MIC by CLSI method	0.015	0.03	0.06	0.125	0.25	0.5	1	2	MSSA	MRSA	total
0.06	1	1	5						7		7
0.125			2	41	2				45		45
0.25			1	95	909	6			1004	7	1011
0.5					56	126	1		20	163	183
1						195	141			336	336
2							17	8		25	25
Total MSSA	1	1	8	135	919	12					
Total MRSA				1	48	315	159	8			
Grand Total	1	1	8	136	967	327	159	8	1076	531	1607

$\label{eq:table_transform} \textbf{Table 1.} \ \text{Agreement of MICs by BSAC and CLSI methods, as found centrally}$

Panel 1. Mueller-Hinton agar,	confluent growth 5 µg disc, as EUCAS	Γ (shaded: zones resistant on EUCAST	criteria) versus MICs by CLSI agar dilution

MIC, mg/L	6	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	3 4	35	<u>></u> 36	Mean zone +SD
2		2			1	1	6	1	3	4	2	1				1	1	2									19.4+4.3
1		2	1	3	2	4	6	31	43	70	65	42	27	9	14	8	4	2	1	1	1						20.8+2.6
0.5		1			1	1		4	7	22	34	35	20	14	21	8	6	3		5	1						22.6+2.8
0.25	2							1	3	5	20	64	87	122	142	131	117	91	81	67	35	18	12	6	3	4	26.2+3.1
0.125												1			1	5	5	7	9	5	4	4	3	1			29.0+2.5
0.06									1							1	1		2			2					27.7+4.5
Total	2	5	1	3	4	6	12	37	57	101	121	143	134	145	178	154	134	105	93	78	41	24	15	7	3	4	

Panel 2: Mueller-Hinton agar, confluent growth 30 µg disc as CLSI (dark grey, resistant by CLSI zone criteria; light grey, intermediate) versus MICs by CLSI

agar dilution

MIC, mg/L	6	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	<u>></u> 42	Mean zone +SD
2				2	1	4	1	5	4	3	1	1	3													25.5+2.6
1		1	2	5	6	11	34	68	69	49	42	16	19	11	2	1										26.3+2.4
0.5			1	2	5	9	14	17	24	28	25	19	20	10	3	2	2	1		1						27.2+2.8
0.25	1				3	4	8	23	52	78	123	114	145	109	106	69	67	49	27	19	7	2	2		3	30.4+3.2
0.125												3	5	2	9	5	5	10	3		2	1				33.2+2.5
0.06							1					1			2	1				2						32.0+4.5
Total	1	1	3	9	15	28	58	113	149	158	191	154	192	132	122	78	74	60	30	22	9	3	2		3	

MIC, mg/L	6	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	<u>></u> 37	Mean zone +SD
2				1	1			3	2	1															20.6 <u>+</u> 2.1
1				1	2	1	5	15	23	24	26	32	14	9	5	1	1								23.7 <u>+</u> 2.2
0.5	1		1			1	5	15	34	45	61	67	42	32	16	3	2	1	1						24.4 <u>+</u> 2.3
0.25								1	9	22	55	151	133	126	128	72	101	69	36	25	21	9	6	3	27.8 <u>+</u> 2.9
0.125	1	1									3	2	4	8	11	11	28	15	17	16	10	5	4		30.3 <u>+</u> 3.6
0.06											2		1	1			2	1					1		28.5 <u>+</u> 4.1
0.03																								1	
0.015																								1	
Total	2	1	1	2	3	2	10	34	68	92	147	252	194	176	160	87	134	86	54	41	31	14	11	5	

Panel 3: IsoSensitest, semi-confluent growth, 5 µg disc (shaded: zones resistant on BSAC criteria¹⁶) versus MICs by BSAC agar dilution

Panel 4: IsoSensitest, semi-confluent growth, 30 µg disc versus MICs by BSAC agar dilution

MIC (mg/L)	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	<u>></u> 42	Mean zone <u>+</u> SD
2										1	2	2	2	1													28.0 <u>+</u> 1.3
1				1	1	1	2	1	5	7	15	28	19	32	19	17	6	4			1						29.2 <u>+</u> .2.6
0.5	1				2		4	3	8	16	20	37	59	79	31	32	21	7	3	3		1					29.6+2.6
0.25						1			7	7	23	42	81	165	119	133	81	85	78	51	43	22	10	13	1	5	32.2 <u>+</u> 3.1
0.125											3	1	1	4	5	19	11	14	21	17	14	8	7	6	2	3	34.9 <u>+</u> 3.2
0.06													1	1	2		1	1	1					1			32.9 <u>+</u> 3.5
0.03																									1		
0.015																										1	
Total	1			1	3	2	6	4	20	31	63	110	163	282	176	201	120	111	103	71	58	31	17	20	4	9	

	Count of	isolates w	ith indicat	ed MIC (m	ig/L) by E	test						
MIC (mg/L)												Grand
by CLSI agar dilution	0.125	0.19	0.25	0.38	0.5	0.75	1	1.5	2	3	4	Total
2				1	4	4	11	3	2			25
1			8	45	95	122	50	8	1	1	3	333
0.5	1	4	15	56	51	26	1		2	2	2	160
0.25			3	2	1	1						7
Grand Total	1	4	26	103	151	153	62	11	5	3	5	525

 Table 3. Local Etest results versus central MIC result on Mueller-Hinton agar for MRSA isolates (n=531)

Shaded results are in essential agreement, after routing Etest values to the normal doubling dilution scale

	No isolates		CLSI/EUCAST m	ethod				BSAC Met	hod	
	with MIC 0.25 mg/L	30-µg	disc	5-µg di	sc	No isolates with	30-µg (disc	5-μ	g disc
Lab	found centrally by CLSI method	Mean zone (mm)	SD (mm)	Mean zone (mm)	SD (mm)	MIC 0.25 mg/L centrally by BSAC method	Mean zone (mm)	SD (mm)	Mean zone (mm)	SD (mm)
СС	35	27.1	2.5	24	2.3	34	30.1	2.6	26.2	2.5
СН	33	27.9	2.4	24	2.9	33	31.1	2.2	27.0	2.1
CZ	32	28.3	2.3	23.8	2.3	35	32.9	3.5	27.5	3.1
DJ	32	29	2.2	26	2.1	31	31.2	2.8	28.0	2.7
DK	19	29.2	2.6	24.9	2.6	19	34.1	2.6	29.6	2.8
DM	25	29.2	2.7	25.2	2.9	26	31.7	4.8	26.5	3.8
CW	34	29.5	2.0	24.9	2	35	32.1	2.5	27.2	2.7
DB	43	29.5	2.1	25.2	2.4	35	29.1	2.7	25.3	2.2
CF	21	29.7	2.1	25.6	2.3	22	32.1	2.2	27.5	2.4
CJ	28	29.8	2.5	24.6	2.3	26	31.4	2.2	26.2	1.9
СК	22	29.8	2.4	26.1	2.3	20	32.0	2.7	27.5	2.2
CM	41	29.8	2.5	26.2	2.7	37	32.1	2.7	27.6	2.5
СР	29	29.8	2.9	25.8	2.7	27	32.7	4.0	28.6	3.5
CG	23	29.9	2.8	25.7	2.3	22	31.3	3.2	27.3	3.1
DC	32	29.9	2.9	25.3	2.7	30	31.6	3.1	27.2	3.1
СХ	21	30.3	3.1	25.8	2.9	19	30.9	2.9	26.0	2.4
DI	28	30.3	2.5	25.9	2.6	26	32.4	1.9	28.2	1.8
DL	36	30.3	2.4	26.4	2.4	27	32	2.7	28.5	2.7
со	37	30.4	2.9	26.6	2.6	38	31.6	3.3	27.7	3.3
DF	16	30.4	3.6	26.3	3.5	15	34.1	3.6	29.3	3.4
CE	31	30.6	2.4	26.8	2.6	31	33.6	3	29.3	2.8

Table 4. Mean zones, as found at participating laboratories for isolates with ceftaroline MICs of 0.25 mg/L found centrally

CQ	35	30.9	3.4	26.4	3	35	32.3	2.9	28.3	2.8
СТ	34	30.9	3.0	26.8	3.2	31	31.4	2.2	27.4	2.6
DD	37	31.1	3.3	26.4	3.3	39	32.5	2.9	27.1	2.5
CS	11	31.2	2.8	25.1	6.7	12	32.1	1.8	27.7	2.1
CI	37	31.5	6.4	27.3	5.8	38	32.5	2.9	27.9	2.6
CL	18	31.5	2.1	27.2	2	19	34.2	1.9	29.3	2
CN	39	31.5	3.1	26.2	3	39	33.7	3	28.8	2.8
CR	20	31.7	2.6	27	2.1	20	32.2	2.8	27.6	2.1
DO	6	31.7	1.5	27.7	2.7	6	32.7	2.7	27.7	2.9
CB	48	31.8	2.8	27.1	2	47	32.2	3.1	27.9	2.6
CV	32	32.4	2.8	27.8	2.5	28	32.6	3	28.3	3
CY	35	33.3	2.8	29	2.6	33	34.1	3.3	29.6	3.2
CU	20	33.7	2.1	29.3	2	13	34.9	3.1	29.9	2.8
DH	21	34.5	2.7	30.3	2.8	19	34.1	3	29.5	2.7

The five lowest values are shaded grey and the five highest shown as white type on a black background; more than five values are highlighted in the event of 'ties'.