

**To:** Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the TN Department of Health and the Tennessee Tuberculosis Elimination Program

**From:** Dr. Kara Levinson, Laboratory Director

**Date:** August 16, 2024

**Subject:** Temporary Suspension of Pyrazinamide (PZA) Drug Susceptibility Testing for TB

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Effective immediately, the Tennessee Department of Health Division of Laboratory Services (DLS) is temporarily suspending Pyrazinamide (PZA) drug susceptibility testing (DST) on isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. This is based on notification from the CDC Division of Tuberculosis Elimination and the Association of Public Health Laboratories of increased rates of quality control failures and an observed increase in PZA resistance or indeterminate results among *M. tuberculosis* isolates tested using the BD BACTEC™ MGIT™ 960 PZA test kits. For these reasons, DLS is temporarily suspending PZA DST until these kit manufacturing issues are resolved. It is currently unknown when new BD BACTEC™ MGIT™ 960 PZA test kits will be available. DLS will continue to provide testing for the other first-line drugs, Rifampin, Isoniazid, and Ethambutol.

As an alternative, sequencing of the *pncA* gene is an acceptable test method for determining PZA susceptibility as PZA resistance is primarily associated with *pncA* mutations. If PZA resistance testing is needed, please contact the DLS Special Microbiology Manager at 615-262-6366 for consultation and test requests.

Questions regarding this change in services may be directed to the Deputy Director, Dr. Randal Fowler ([Randal.Fowler@tn.gov](mailto:Randal.Fowler@tn.gov)).

Thank you for your continued partnership.



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