

### Characteristics of Neo-Sensitabs

Neo-Sensitabs are 9 mm in diameter, and each is print coded for safe identification. The tablets are manufactured with the aid of microbially inert auxiliary substances by a dry process using crystalline antimicrobials. This procedure results in very uniform tablets that are homogenous in their content of active ingredients and have an extraordinary stability, usually not less than 4 years shelf-life at room temperature (chapter 1).

Neo-Sensitabs and the MIC-breakpoints (chapter 3) are standardized according to potencies recommended by CLSI- Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (formerly NCCLS), EUCAST, SFM France (chapter 5) and BSAC (chapter 6). The size of the zone therefore is equivalent to the size of a paper disk, if the potency is the same.

Neo-Sensitabs will follow the EUCAST recommendations and is to be considered a susceptibility testing system calibrated to EUCAST breakpoints and terminology in accordance with EUCAST breakpoint tables.

All antimicrobials have received letter codes in order to achieve optimal recognition and zone measurements with automatic instruments a 5-digit code for each Neo-Sensitabs type has been chosen. The new Neo-Sensitabs with potency according to CLSI have of course different code than the old Neo-Sensitabs e.g. Erythromycin 78 µg (code: ERYTR) and Erythromycin 15 µg (code: ERY15).

The new ranges of Neo-Sensitabs are produced in cartridges with spring and are used together with the new dispenser from Rosco. The interpretation tables are available in this supplement; however, some additional information concerning Neo-Sensitabs is still only available in the User's Guide for Neo-Sensitabs Ed. 19, 2007/2008 (soon Ed. 20, 2009).

### Dispenser

The dispensers are to be used only with Rosco Neo-Sensitabs **cartridges with a spring**, where the potencies of the tablets are according to recommendations of CLSI (formerly NCCLS).

Models available from Rosco:

- 1) Adaptable to 8-10 cm petri dishes delivering up to 7 Neo-Sensitabs at a time (Dispenser 101).
- 2) Adaptable for square petri dishes (12 x 12 cm) delivering up to 16 Neo-Sensitabs at a time (Dispenser 104).
- 3) A single cartridge dispenser.

The Dispensers are made of hard plastic and are operated by pushing the handle down, and the Neo-Sensitabs will be transferred to the agar surface.

When using several dispensers, the color code on the top of the handles can be used for differentiation. The holes in the bottom plate ensure that the tablets are placed onto the agar surface in a pre-determined pattern.

The dispensers are easy to disassemble for inside cleaning. They must be cleaned occasionally (wipe with ethanol and hot water to remove dust from the Neo-Sensitabs tablets).

The tablets come packed in cartridges (tubes), matching the dispenser top-plate holes. Each cartridge accommodates 50 Neo-Sensitabs and a red block that prevents dispensing when one cartridge is empty. Insert the cartridges gently and carefully one by one through the top-plates holes. For easy identification the bottom of each tube is labeled with a short name (5-digit alpha-numeric code, also marked on each tablet) of the antimicrobial contained in the cartridge.

Further information is available on [www.rosco-diagnostics.com](http://www.rosco-diagnostics.com)