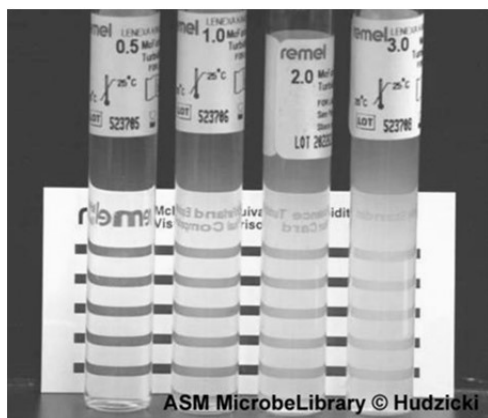


# Preparation of Standardized Suspensions for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing

(McFarland Turbidity Method)

1. Prepare test suspension by inoculating a broth tube with 1-3 like colonies harvested from culture plate.
2. Place tube in incubator for 1-2 hours.
3. Mix 0.5 McFarland Standard and test suspension thoroughly with a vortexer or by shaking vigorously for 15 seconds.
4. In the presence of good lighting, visually compare turbidity of test suspension to the McFarland standard. This can be facilitated with the use of a Wickerham card or scale. (See illustration below.)
5. If test suspension appears too dense when compared to the McFarland standard, dilute the test suspension aseptically with additional broth or sterile saline.
6. If test suspension is too light, inoculate with additional harvested organisms or return to incubator for 1 hour then repeat procedure above.



## Wickerham Turbidity Card

If it is more difficult to see lines on Wickerham card through test suspension than through the McFarland standard, the suspension is too dense and must be diluted.

(Printable Card)

