

CSF specimen collections instructions

CSF is an irreplaceable specimen. Advance coordination is needed to prevent mis orders, cancellations, specimen rejections, and collection/processing errors. The table below shows the required volumes and orders. Any tests not listed on this form must be reviewed with client services (612) 863-4678 and approved in advance.

For patient safety, regulatory, and compliance reasons, collection kits from non-Allina labs are not accepted.

Vials collected must contain (2) two patient identifiers. Priority must be indicated if CSF volume is insufficient for testing.

Test	Volume	Excellian order	Manual order	Comments
Cell Count & diff, CSF	1.0 mL	LAB9421	Complete AHL Custom Clinical – CSF requisition	
Glucose, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB9110		
Protein, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB220		
Angiotensin Converting Enzyme, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB994		
Lactic Acid, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB13635		
Multiple sclerosis screen	1.0 mL	LAB12470		CSF MIN VOLUME: 0.5 mL CSF + 0.5 mL Serum Required paired blood specimen. Blood and CSF specimens should be collected within 24 hrs of each other.
NMO/Aquaporin-4-IgG FACS	2.0 mL	LAB12767		CSF MIN VOLUME: 2.0 mL Blood testing has the highest sensitivity and is preferred. CSF testing is extremely low yield and only useful if there is high suspicion AND serum is unexpectedly negative.
Cytology	2.0 mL	LAB6301		CSF MIN VOLUME: 2.0 mL

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				For flow cytometry or other special pathologic studies, contact the pathologist to discuss the case.
AFB culture & smear	3.0 mL	LAB6617		
Meningitis/Encephalitis panel, PCR, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB14504		CSF MIN VOLUME: 0.5 mL Includes: CMV, Enterovirus, HSV-1, HSV-2, HHV-6, Parechovirus, VZV , Cryptococcus, E. coli, Hemophilus influenza, Listeria, Neisseria meningitidis, Group B Strep, Strep pneumo.
Spinal fluid culture, stain	1.0 mL	LAB6557		CSF MIN VOLUME: 1.0 mL Includes aerobic and anaerobic cultures.
Fungus culture, other sources	0.5 mL	LAB6579		Will be combined onto CSF culture specimen.
Toxoplasma gondii PCR, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB13637		
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) PCR	0.5 mL	LAB13638		
Epstein Barr virus, PCR,	0.5 mL	LAB13387		
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1/2 PCR	0.5 mL	LAB14484		
JC Virus DNA, PCR, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB13394		
VDRL, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB723		

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Lyme central nervous system infection IgG, w/ reflex	1.5 mL	LAB994		CSF MIN VOLUME: 1.5 mL CSF + 1.5 mL Serum Preferred test for Lyme CNS infection.
Lyme disease, B. burgdorferi, PCR	0.5 mL	LAB13393		CSF MIN VOLUME: 0.5 mL Do NOT order unless blood serology is positive.
Streptococcus pneumoniae Antigen	1.0 mL	LAB7764		
Arbovirus antibody panel, IgG, and IgM, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB994		
West Nile Virus (WNV) RT-PCR	0.5 mL	LAB13533		CSF MIN VOLUME: 0.5 mL Do NOT order unless blood serology is positive.
West Nile Virus antibody, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB13530		CSF MIN VOLUME: 0.5 mL Preferred test for WNV CNS infection.
Cryptococcal antigen, CSF	0.5 mL	LAB6629		
Beta amyloid 42/40, CSF	5.0 mL	LAB14507		CSF MIN VOLUME: 5.0 mL ALERT!! CSF MUST be collected directly into a Sarstedt Liquor Tube. Contact the laboratory to obtain the tube BEFORE the procedure.
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	2.0 mL	LAB994		CSF MIN VOLUME: 2.0 mL

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[14-3-3 protein, RT-QuIC (real-time quaking-induced conversion)]				ALERT: Time-sensitive - Must be processed by the laboratory within 20 minutes of collection. Send immediately and call the laboratory to expect the specimen.
Encephalopathy - autoimmune eval, CSF	2.0 mL	LAB12689	Complete AHL Custom Clinical Paraneoplastic/Autoimmune CSF requisition	Blood serology must be positive with APE2 Score >4. Only 1 eval panel may be ordered.
Epilepsy – autoimmune eval, CSF	2.0 mL	LAB12691		
Dementia – autoimmune eval, CSF	2.0 mL	LAB12687		
Movement Disorders - autoimmune eval, CSF	2.0 mL	LAB994		