



Cerebrospinal Fluid Culture

Alternate Name:	CSF Culture
Test Includes:	<p>Isolation and identification of potential pathogens</p> <p>Antibiotic susceptibility testing where indicated.</p> <p>Gram stain</p>
Performing Lab:	New Hanover
Specimen Container:	Sterile screw-cap tube
Minimum Volume Required:	0.5 mL
Testing Availability	<p>Routine: 24 hours/day</p> <p>Stat: Yes (Can order a stat gram stain)</p>
Turnaround Time:	<p>Positive smear and/or culture reports are immediately called to the physician, the patient's nurse, and Infection Control.</p> <p>Preliminary culture results are reported after 24 hours.</p>
Special Handling:	<p>Tubes should be numbered in sequence. The third tube collected during the lumbar puncture is most suitable for culture, as skin contaminants from the puncture are usually washed out with fluid collected in the first two tubes.</p> <p>Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.</p>
Patient Preparation:	None
Specimen Stability:	
Reference Range:	No Growth

Critical Value:	N/A
CPT Code:	87071, 87205
Testing Methodology:	Culture
Causes for Specimen Rejection:	Improper labeling Specimen not collected in a sterile container. Specimen container must not be contaminated on the outside of the container. Specimens must be delivered to the laboratory within 30 minutes of collection.
Other Comments:	
Clinical Significance:	N/A