CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID CYTOLOGY: COLLECTION, LABELING, AND PROCESSING OF SPECIMENS

I. Principle:
For processing cerebral spinal fluids submitted for cytological evaluation to determine the presence or absence of malignant tumor cells or infectious processes.

II. Ordering and Labeling:
- Order the test in EPIC using test code LAB13 for Non-Gyn cytology.
- Enter the Specimen Source.
- Enter the source description in the box on the same line at the far right of the screen.
- When the Specimen Source is entered, another box opens below it for an additional specimen.
- Fill in for as many specimens as needed. Sign the order.
- Go to the Collection activity.
- Select collect all and document collection information by:
  - Click on the pencil to edit all collection information for all specimens.
  - OR click on the blue hyperlinks for each specimen to edit only that specimen’s collection information.
- NOTE: additional sources can be added and source description can be modified during collection ONLY before clicking on the Print Labels button.
- Click on Print Labels.
- Label the CSF tube using the EPIC generated label.

Proper patient history is essential to the successful interpretation of a cytological specimen and is required by regulations. Any evaluation and report is, at best, incomplete without correlating the cytological studies with a complete patient history. Improper labeling may cause the specimen to be returned for proper labeling, a delay while waiting for proper labeling or the specimen to be rejected and discarded.