

Specimen

CSF – Optimal volume is 2-10 mLs. Although test orders are seldom canceled due to insufficient volumes, testing is occasionally performed using suboptimal volumes.

Unacceptable Specimen:

Specimen sent in non-sterile or leaking container.

Procedure:

1. Lumbar puncture is performed by physician.
2. Cap tubes tightly, label and send to Laboratory *immediately*. DO NOT refrigerate specimen.
3. Tube #2 is routinely the second tube filled and is the used for microbiology procedures.
4. If testing for anaerobes is desired, an anaerobic transport vial should be used -- see *Anaerobic Culture* on

*A gram stain is done whenever a CSF bacterial culture is ordered.*