**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.*