

# COLLECTION OF CEREBROSPINAL FLUID (CSF) SPECIMEN FOR CULTURE

### Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- collection date and time

The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

### Microbiology Collection Containers:



**Sterile Container (90 mL)**

# COLLECTION OF CEREBROSPINAL FLUID (CSF) SPECIMEN FOR CULTURE

### Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)

#### For C&S

- Collect the CSF specimen into sterile container or red top tubes.
- A minimum volume of 0.5 mL is recommended for routine culture.
- **Ensure that the specimen and requisition are labeled with the patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, source of specimen and date and time of collection.**
- CSF specimens should be maintained at **room temperature**. Do not refrigerate.
- Specimens should be both transported to the laboratory and processed as **expediently** as possible.
- **Physicians submitting CSF specimens outside of a hospital setting should notify the local LifeLabs Laboratory in advance.**

#### For TB Culture

- Collect specimen into sterile container or red top tube.
- Volume should be at least 2 mL, samples less than 0.5 mL will be rejected.
- Maintain at room temperature. Submit to PHL within 24 hours with a completed PHL requisition.

#### For Cryptococcus Antigen and Fungal Culture

- Collect specimen into sterile container or red top tube.
- Send a minimum of 0.5 mL CSF.
- Complete PHL requisition requesting **STAT** testing for Cryptococcal antigen and fungus culture.
- Store refrigerated at 2-8°C and submit to the PHL laboratory as soon as possible.