

# Ordering CSF Tests and Labeling Specimens

Date: 05/31/2015

## Overview

- When CSF is obtained, typically multiple tests are ordered (cell count, total protein, glucose, send-out tests, cultures, etc). With the move to Partners eCare, CSF tests will now be ordered electronically through Epic, and labels will be printed from the Sunquest laboratory system and applied to the CSF tubes. This tip sheet lists the steps to order CSF tests and label the tubes collected.

## Steps to Order CSF Tests and Label Specimens

- Place Order:** Use the “Lumbar Puncture Labs” Order Set or ED Lumbar Puncture panel to easily order common CSF tests.

The screenshot shows the 'Lumbar Puncture Labs' order set in Epic. At the top, there is a dropdown menu for 'Lumbar Puncture Labs' with 'Manage My Version' and an 'Add Order' button. Below this is a section titled 'Labs' with a dropdown arrow. Under 'Labs', there is a section for 'Cerebrospinal Fluid' with a dropdown arrow. Below 'Cerebrospinal Fluid', there is a list of tests, each with a checkbox and a frequency: 'Routine, Once'. The tests listed are: Cell count, CSF; Total protein, CSF; LDH, CSF; Glucose, CSF; Lyme antibodies, CSF; EBV quantitative PCR, CSF; JC virus PCR, CSF; Syphilis serology for CSF (VDRL); Adenovirus PCR, CSF/fluid; Toxoplasma gondii PCR; Culture/smear, CSF; Gram stain; and Fungal culture.

Test	Frequency
<input type="checkbox"/> Cell count, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Total protein, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> LDH, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Glucose, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Lyme antibodies, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> EBV quantitative PCR, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> JC virus PCR, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis serology for CSF (VDRL)	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Adenovirus PCR, CSF/fluid	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Toxoplasma gondii PCR	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Culture/smear, CSF	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Gram stain	Routine, Once
<input type="checkbox"/> Fungal culture	Routine, Once

- Print Labels:** Please work with the nurse or medical assistant to activate your CSF orders and print the labels. Physicians and physician assistants do not currently have access to print laboratory labels. Bring the labels into the room where the procedure is being performed.

- **Label Specimens:** You are responsible for labeling the tubes appropriately based on the Sunquest (laboratory information system) code printed on the label. Lab tests are automatically grouped together on the same label based on the testing department; however, the anticipated number of labels (4 or 5) generated for CSF orders may be greater than the number of CSF tubes (3-4) due to the way these tests are configured.

The CSF tubes have tube numbers etched on them that you can use to guide labeling, assuming you have collected the CSF according to the tube numbers.

- Typical tubes that CSF testing is performed on:
  - TUBE 1 – Hematology cell count
  - TUBE 2 – Chemistries and send out tests
  - TUBE 3 – Microbiology tests
  - TUBE 4 – Hematology cell count
- You will be able to distinguish the testing department for each label by the tests that are on it. The Sunquest test code for each test is displayed on the label in the lower left corner (see image below).

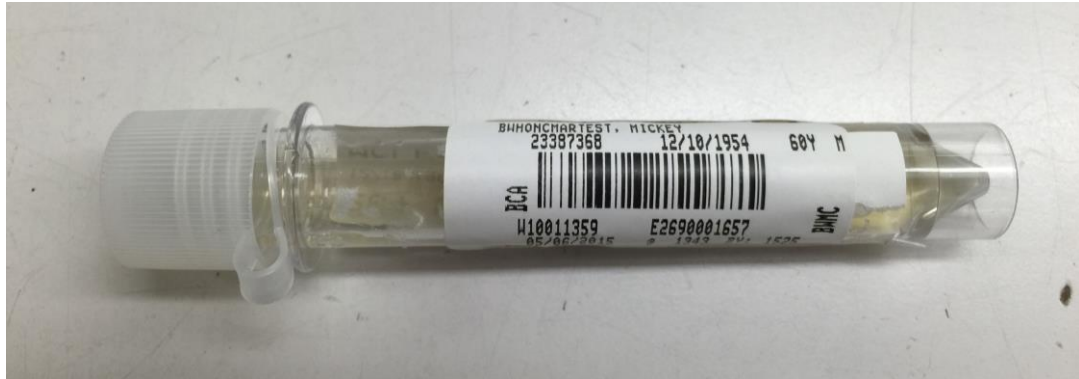


- You will need to review the Sunquest test code and label the CSF specimens appropriately. The Sunquest test code for tests commonly performed on CSF specimens are listed below in parenthesis, categorized by type of testing.

**Hematology (always get 2 labels)**

*If there is only 1 tube available (or desired) for Cell count, CSF, please put both labels on the single tube. The second label can be wrapped around the other side of the two, so both labels are visible and do not overlap.*

- Cell count, CSF (CSFC, CSFDIF)

**Chemistry and send-outs (1 label)**

- Total Protein, CSF (SFTP)
- LDH, CSF (FLDH)
- Glucose, CSF (CGLU)
- Lyme antibodies, CSF (MCLYWB)
- EBV Quantitative PCR, CSF (CEBVP)
- JC Virus PCR, CSF (JCVPCR)
- Syphilis serology for CSF (VDRLC)
- Adenovirus PCR, CSF/fluid (CADVR)
- Toxoplasma gondii PCR (PTOXM)
- CMV PCR, CSF (CCMVM)
- HHV-6 DNA PCR, CSF (HV6PCR)
- HSV nucleic acid amplification, CSF (LCHSV)
- VZV PCR, CSF (CVZVP)
- Galactomannan (CGALM)
- Enterovirus PCR, CSF (FLENT)
- West Nile, Virus AB, CSF (LCWNV)

**Microbiology (sometimes get 2 labels, depending on test combination)**

*Please put both labels on the tube so that both labels are visible and do not overlap.*

- Culture/Smear, CSF (CSFCU4)
- Gram stain (GS4)
- Fungal Culture (FC4)
- Myobacterial (TB/AFP) smear/culture (CAFCS4)
- Cryptococcal antigen, CSF (CCRAG)
- India ink prep (INK4)

- **Record Collection:** After the tubes are labeled, **please write the collection date and time and your Partners User ID on all specimen labels.** This information is required to process the specimen in the laboratory.
  - a. Note: Nurses will **not** use Collection Manager Label Verify to record the collection.
  
- **Send the labeled CSF specimens to the laboratory** in as per your usual policies and procedures.
  
- If you have **questions or problems**, please ask a Super User or Elbow to Elbow Support resource or call the Service Desk at 857-307-4600.