Lab Dept: Serology

Test Name: WEST NILE VIRUS IGG/IGM ANTIBODY, CSF

**General Information**

Lab Order Codes: WNVC

Synonyms: Arbovirus Ab; Flavivirus Ab; Viral Encephalitis; WNV Ab; Mosquito borne encephalitis

CPT Codes: 86788 - West Nile Virus, IgM
            86789 - West Nile Virus, IgG

Test Includes: West Nile Virus IgG Antibody and West Nile Virus IgM Antibody

**Logistics**

Test Indications: Preferred test for the laboratory diagnosis of WNV meningitis or encephalitis.

Lab Testing Sections: Serology - Sendouts

Referred to: Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: WNC)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280
                STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 – 4 days, test setup Monday-Friday (June-October) and Monday, Wednesday, Friday (November-May)

Special Instructions: N/A

**Specimen**

Specimen Type: CSF

Container: Sterile container

Draw Volume: 2 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL) CSF

Processed Volume: Same as Draw Volume
**Collection:** Routine CSF collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Store specimen in refrigerator. Ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Specimens other than CSF (spinal fluid); mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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**Interpretive**

**Reference Range:**
- IgG: Negative
- IgM: Negative

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Test results should be used in conjunction with a clinical evaluation and other available diagnostic procedures.

The significance of negative test results in immunosuppressed patients is uncertain.

False-negative results due to competition by high levels of IgG, while theoretically possible, have not been observed.

WNV antibody results for CSF should be interpreted with caution. Complicating factors include low antibody levels found in CSF, passive transfer of antibody from blood, and contamination via bloody taps.

**Methodology:** Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)

**References:** [Mayo Medical Laboratories Web Page](https://www.mayomedicallaboratories.com) December 2017

**Updates:** 11/19/2015: Method update, previously listed as ELISA.