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**Lab Dept:** Microbiology

**Test Name:** MENINGITIS/ENCEPHALITIS PANEL PCR, CSF

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**General Information**

**Lab Order Codes:** MEPNL

**Synonyms:** N/A

**CPT Codes:** 87483 – Central nervous system pathogen, includes multiplex reverse transcription, when performed, and multiplex amplified probe technique, multiple types or subtypes, 12-15 targets.

**Test Includes:** This panel includes *Cryptococcus neoformans/gattii*, Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Enterovirus, *Escherichia coli* K1, *Haemophilus influenzae*, Herpes simplex virus 1(HSV-1), Herpes simplex virus 2(HSV-2), Human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6), Human parechovirus, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Streptococcus agalactiae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Varicella-zoster virus (VZV). NOTE: This test is not recommended for ED and ambulatory patients.

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**Logistics**

**Test Indications:** Use to rapidly detect a panel of common viruses, bacteria, and fungi associated with meningitis and encephalitis. Do NOT use as a replacement for CSF bacterial and/or fungal culture and Cryptococcal antigen testing for at-risk patients. A negative result does not exclude a diagnosis of meningitis or encephalitis due to infection.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Microbiology – Minneapolis

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-5866

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 3 - 24 hours from receipt in Minneapolis Lab

Testing performed: Monday through Sunday: 6am – 1:30 pm

**Special Instructions:** Please ensure a bacterial culture order has been placed on the same collection.

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**Specimen**

**Specimen Type:** CSF – Collected by lumbar puncture

<b>Container:</b>	CSF collection tube
<b>Draw Volume:</b>	1.0 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) CSF
<b>Collection:</b>	Aseptic Technique: Refer to the CSF collection procedure. Immediately cap tube after collection.
<b>Special Processing:</b>	DO NOT centrifuge. Store and ship at room temperature or refrigerated temperatures.
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Samples not collected by lumbar puncture, i.e. shunt; frozen specimens; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	Negative (for all targets)
<b>Critical Values:</b>	Positive
<b>Limitations:</b>	The meningitis/encephalitis panel is NOT a replacement for CSF bacterial and/or fungal culture and Cryptococcal antigen testing for at-risk patients. Non-K1 <i>E. coli</i> serotypes and non-encapsulated strains of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> are NOT detected. The panel does NOT differentiate active from latent herpes virus infections. Test results should be interpreted in the context of host factors and other laboratory information.
<b>Methodology:</b>	Multiplex Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
<b>References:</b>	FilmArray Meningitis Encephalitis Panel (ME) CE-IVD Instruction Booklet (RFIT-PRT-0276) Biofire Diagnostics LLC May 2016