
Lab Dept: Microbiology/Virology

Test Name: MENINGITIS/ENCEPHALITIS PANEL PCR, CSF

General Information

Lab Order Codes: MEPP

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).

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 - Sendouts

Referred to: ARUP Laboratories (ARUP test: 2013305)

Phone Numbers: MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

Test Availability: Daily, 24 hours

Turnaround Time: 1 – 2 days

Special Instructions: N/A

Specimen

Specimen Type: CSF

Container:	CSF collection tube
Draw Volume:	0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.25 mL) CSF
Processed Volume:	Same as Draw Volume
Collection:	CSF procedure
Special Processing:	Lab Staff: Transfer 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.25 mL) CSF to a sterile ARUP Standard Transport Tube. DO NOT centrifuge. Store and ship at refrigerated temperatures.
Patient Preparation:	None
Sample Rejection:	Frozen specimens; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens

Interpretive

Reference Range: Not Detected

Critical Values: Detected

Limitations: 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 *E. coli* serotypes and non-encapsulated strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* 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.

Methodology: Qualitative Polymerase Chain Reaction

References: [ARUP](#) February 2019