

---

**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

<b>Container:</b>	CSF collection tube
<b>Draw Volume:</b>	0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.25 mL) CSF
<b>Processed Volume:</b>	Same as Draw Volume
<b>Collection:</b>	CSF procedure
<b>Special Processing:</b>	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.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	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