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**Lab Dept:** Other Fluids

**Test Name:** AFP, CSF

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** AFPC

**Synonyms:** Alpha-Fetoprotein (AFP), Spinal fluid

**CPT Codes:** 86316 – Immunoassay for tumor antigen; other antigen, quantitative

**Test Includes:** AFP CSF concentration reported in ng/mL.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Useful as an adjunct in the diagnosis of CNS germinomas and meningoceal carcinomatosis. Evaluating germ-cell tumors, including testicular cancer metastatic to the CNS in conjunction with beta-hCG measurement. An adjunct in distinguishing between suprasellar dysgerminomas and craniopharyngiomas. A supplement to cerebrospinal fluid cytologic analysis.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: AFPSF)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 - 3 day, test set up Monday - Saturday

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** Spinal fluid

**Container:** Screw capped, sterile vial

**Draw Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum:0.5 mL) CSF

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

<b>Collection:</b>	Routine spinal fluid collection
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Freeze specimen in plastic vial and send frozen.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	None
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; warm specimens

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** <1.5 ng/mL  
Reference range for newborns is not available.

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Malignancy may occur without elevation of AFP concentration. AFP elevation occurs in approximately 70% of CNS germinomas. Measurement of beta-hCG is recommended to improve sensitivity of detection.

**Methodology:** Two-site Immunoenzymatic (Sandwich)

**References:** [Mayo Medical Web Page](#) August 2015

For serum ranges, see literature references: Ped Res 15:50-52(1981); Scand J Immunol 8(Supplement 8): 235-238