### General Information

**Lab Dept:** Other Fluids  
**Test Name:** CSF COUNT & DIFFERENTIAL  

**Lab Order Codes:** CSFC  
**Synonyms:** Spinal Fluid Count; CSF Count; CSF Cell Count  
**CPT Codes:**  
- 89050 - Cell Count, miscellaneous body fluids  
- 89051 - Cell Count, with differential  

**Test Includes:** Color, clarity, RBC, WBC and Differential if WBC >5 cells/mm³

### Logistics

**Test Indications:** Evaluate spinal fluid for the presence of RBC’s and WBC’s that may be indicative of hemorrhage, meningitis, malignant neoplasms, leukemia or abscess.  

**Lab Testing Sections:** Hematology  
**Phone Numbers:**  
- MIN Lab: 612-813-6280  
- STP Lab: 651-220-6550  

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours  
**Turnaround Time:** 1 hour  
**Special Instructions:** Specimen must arrive within 1 hour of collection. Indicate source of specimen (shunt or lumbar puncture). Do Not send to lab through the pneumatic tube system.

### Specimen

**Specimen Type:** CSF  
**Container:** Screw capped, sterile vial OR plastic syringe, capped  
**Draw Volume:** 1 mL CSF  
**Processed Volume:** Minimum: 0.5 mL CSF  
**Collection:** Routine spinal fluid collection
Special Processing: N/A

Patient Preparation: Aseptic preparation for aspiration

Sample Rejection: Clotted sample; slide will be processed to report most common WBC type; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen

Interpretive

Reference Range:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appearance: Clear and colorless</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cell Count:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBC (mononuclear cells)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Differential:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cell type</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lymphocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrophage/Monocyte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutrophil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eosinophil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Critical Values: N/A

Limitations: N/A

Methodology: Manual counts/differential


Update: 2/14/2005: Critical value for CSF WBC’s removed. Previously listed as >10/uL.