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**Lab Dept:** Other Fluids

**Test Name:** CSF COUNT & DIFFERENTIAL

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***General Information***

**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/mm<sup>3</sup>

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***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.

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***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; mislabeled or unlabeled specimen.

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***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	<b>Appearance:</b>	Clear and colorless		
	<b>Cell Count:</b>	RBC	0/uL	
		WBC (mononuclear cells)	0 – 10/uL	
	<b>Differential:</b>	Cell type	Neonate (%)	>1 Month (%)
		Lymphocyte	20 ± 18	62 ± 34
Macrophage/Monocyte		77 ± 22	36 ± 20	
Neutrophil		3 ± 5	2 ± 5	
Eosinophil	Rare	Rare		

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** N/A

**Methodology:** Manual counts/differential

**References:** Kjelsberg C et al (1993) Body Fluids, American Society of Clinical Pathologists Press

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

12/20/23: removed reference to performing slide prep to evaluate for predominant cell type.