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**Lab Dept:** Other Fluids

**Test Name:** HCG BETA SUBUNIT, CSF

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** BHCC

**Synonyms:** Chorionic Gonadotropin, Beta-Subunit (Quantitative), CSF

**CPT Codes:** 84702 – Gonadotropin, chorionic; quantitative

**Test Includes:** HCG Beta subunit, CSF concentration reported in IU/L.

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Measurement of human chorionic gonadotropin (hCG) in spinal fluid facilitates diagnosis of brain metastases of testicular cancer or extragonadal intracerebral germ cell tumors.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry - Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (Test: BHSF)

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** Monday – Saturday, 1 - 3 days

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** CSF

**Container:** Screw capped, sterile vial

**Draw Volume:** 0.6 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) spinal fluid

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

**Collection:** Routine spinal fluid collection

**Special Processing:** Lab Staff: Refrigerate CSF aliquot. Send specimen refrigerated. (Note: Refrigerated samples are stable for 28 days.) Forward promptly.

**Patient Preparation:** None

**Sample Rejection:** Mislabeled or unlabeled specimens; ambient or frozen specimens

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***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:**  $\leq 1.5$  IU/L

Note: Tumor markers are not specific for malignancy, and values may vary by method.

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Slight elevations of hCG in spinal may occur in non-neoplastic diseases.

**Methodology:** Electrochemiluminescent Immunoassay

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

**Updates:** 4/28/2015: Method update, previously listed as Immunometric Assay