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**Lab Dept:** Serology

**Test Name:** WEST NILE VIRUS IGG/IGM ANTIBODY, CSF

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** WNVC

**Synonyms:** Arbovirus Ab; Flavivirus Ab; Viral Encephalitis; WNV Ab; Mosquito borne encephalitis

**CPT Codes:** 86788 - West Nile Virus, IgM  
86789 - West Nile Virus, IgG

**Test Includes:** West Nile Virus IgG Antibody and West Nile Virus IgM Antibody

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Preferred test for the laboratory diagnosis of WNV meningitis or encephalitis.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Serology - Sendouts

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

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

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 1 – 4 days, test setup Monday-Friday (June-October) and Monday, Wednesday, Friday (November-May)

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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***Specimen***

**Specimen Type:** CSF

**Container:** Sterile container

**Draw Volume:** 0.5 mL (Minimum: 0.4 mL) CSF

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Collection:</b>          | Routine CSF collection  |
| <b>Special Processing:</b>  | Lab Staff: Store specimen in refrigerator. Ship at refrigerated temperatures. Forward promptly. |
| <b>Patient Preparation:</b> | None  |
| <b>Sample Rejection:</b>    | Specimens other than CSF (spinal fluid); mislabeled or unlabeled specimens                      |

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### ***Interpretive***

**Reference Range:** IgG: Negative

IgM: Negative

**Critical Values:** N/A

**Limitations:** Test results should be used in conjunction with a clinical evaluation and other available diagnostic procedures.

The significance of negative test results in immunosuppressed patients is uncertain.

False-negative results due to competition by high levels of IgG, while theoretically possible, have not been observed.

WNV antibody results for CSF should be interpreted with caution. Complicating factors include low antibody levels found in CSF, passive transfer of antibody from blood, and contamination via bloody taps.

**Methodology:** Enzyme Immunoassay (EIA)

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

**Updates:** 11/19/2015: Method update, previously listed as ELISA.