



Physician Alert



November 21, 2014

CSF Sampling for Investigation of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage

Effective: December 2, 2014

Occasionally, the Hematology Laboratory receives requests for RBC count in tubes 1 and 4 of a CSF collection to help determine the presence of a subarachnoid bleed.

A standardized process has been established for this purpose in sites capable of offering automated fluid counts:

- An automated RBC count will be provided in CSF tubes 1 and 4 if specimen quantity allows (> .5 mL)
- CSF tubes must be clearly labeled as to sequence of collection, as well as with other standard identifiers
- Requisition **must indicate "query subarachnoid hemorrhage"** to trigger this process
- RBC count will be reported from tube 1 and tube 4
- Standard CSF work up, including cell count, differential and morphologic review will be reported from tube 4
- Tubes 2 and 3 will be used for Chemistry and Microbiology.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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or

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