Handling CSF Fluid For Culture and Pathogens

CSF Film Array

1. If a CSF culture order also contains requests for Pathogen PCR testing like N meningitides, Herpes (see Service Update), the sample will be handled according to this criteria.
2. 1 Pathogen order- Send the one PCR Pathogen testing to our Reference Lab AND do the Culture and Gram stain at Pekin.
3. 2 or more Pathogens from the CSF film array profile list – Cancel the individual orders and order the CSF film array. Test code SFPCR and send to Methodist for **Culture** and Film Array. Gram stain Stat at Pekin.
4. A physician can also order the CSF Film array testing.
5. Handling the Culture and Film Array sample. Dr Racsa requests an unopened tube for the Film Array Testing.
6. If there are Multiple tubes

Tube #1 Hematology to be used if 2 cell counts are requested- Save specimen at room temp.

Tube #2 Microbiology- gram stain and give supernatant to Chemistry. Refrigerate after completion of testing

Tube #3 CSF Film Array- unopened at room temp and Culture to Methodist

Tube #4 Hematology cells counts- Refrigerate after completion of testing

1. If there are 3 tubes

Tube #1 Hematology cell count if a second count is requested - Save specimen at room temp.

Tube #2 CSF Film Array- unopened at room temp and Culture to Methodist

Tube #3 Microbiology- Aliquot some specimen to Hemo for cell counts. Do Gram stain. Supernatant to Chemistry. Refrigerate after completion of testing.