Specimen Submission Requirements for the Syphilis Serology - Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF)

Methodology: VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative)

Performed: The Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division will accept CSF specimens from Monday through Friday by 3:30 p.m.

Turn-Around-Time: 5 days

Specimen Collection: A minimum of 0.5 mL of CSF.

Specimen Transport: Specimens are to be delivered to the Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division at a transport temperature of 2 – 8° C.

Requisition Form: State Laboratories Division requisition Form 81.3. At a minimum, patient identifier, name and address of submitter, type of specimen (e.g. CSF), date of collection, and test requested must be completed on form.

Normal Value: Non-reactive

Result Notification: Laboratory reports will be forwarded to the submitter.

Remarks: Please be sure that completed requisition forms are legible. Requisition forms and specimen tubes are not to be placed in the same chamber of the specimen transport container or bag. All specimens received for the syphilis examination of CSF will be tested with both the VDRL qualitative and VDRL quantitative test.

Unacceptable Conditions: 

- Illegible or incomplete requisition forms.
- Unlabeled tubes.
- Leaking specimens.
- Specimen quantity not sufficient (<0.5 mL of CSF) to perform test.
- CSF grossly contaminated with red blood cells.
- Grossly contaminated with microorganisms.
- Specimens warmer than the required transport temperature.
- Specimens other than CSF.
Test Location: State Laboratories Division
Medical Microbiology Branch
Bacteriology and Parasitology Section
Bacterial Serology Unit
2725 Waimano Home Rd., 2nd floor
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Phone: (808) 453-6706

Approved:

A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.
State Laboratories Division Administrator

6-7-07
Date