* 1. Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) for Cytological Examination

Please note that these specimens must be sent or delivered to the **Neuropathology Department**, not to General Pathology, as soon as possible, and always within 72 hours of collection from the patient.

Failure to do this may result in the specimen being left in the wrong department for a significant period of time before Neuropathology staffs are notified of its existence. The deterioration of the specimen during this period may affect the quality of the diagnostic result.

CSF specimens may be left in a ward fridge for up to 72 hours if they are collected outside of the Neuropathology Department’s opening times. **Storage in a fridge for longer periods or at room temperature for more than a few hours will render the specimen diagnostically useless.**

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| Prior notification | Please inform the laboratory on Ext 42400 to let them know a CSF is being taken. This will alert staff to look for the sample if not received as expected. Please leave your contact details for any follow ups. |
| Container | A universal plastic specimen pot, clearly labelled with the patient’s details.  Ideally at least 1ml of CSF is required. No fixative should be added to the container.  The pot must be placed in a sealable specimen bag. |
| Accompanying information | If a request not completed on ICE, a completed green neuropathology request form can be sent. This MUST be in a separate compartment of the specimen bag to the specimen, to avoid contamination of forms. |
| Point of delivery | Neuropathology Main Laboratory or Cellular pathology Specimen Reception, preferably no later than 2.00 pm, to allow time for further procedures to be performed on the same day, if required.  Samples may be sent via the pneumatic tube system when in working hours (Mon-Fri) and the laboratory must be telephoned prior to sending. |
| Notification at time of delivery | A member of the Department scientific staff. Where necessary, he/she will sign the theatre log book. |

THIS IS A CONTROLLED DOCUMENT