

Clinical Laboratory Test Update

Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel

Effective Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023

Effective Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Memorial Hospital North Laboratory will begin performing the BioFire® FilmArray® Meningitis/Encephalitis (ME) Panel in-house. This testing was previously performed at Children's Hospital Aurora lab.

Test Name	
Lab Test Code	LAB5200
Acceptable Specimen	CSF collected from lumbar puncture, specimens collected from shunts are not acceptable
Specimen Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lumbar puncture procedures should be performed in an enclosed room using sterile technique.• Everyone in the room should wear a mask- the test is very sensitive and even someone with a minor illness can contaminate the sample.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Individuals with active respiratory symptoms (runny nose, cough, etc.) Rhinovirus may cross-react with enterovirus○ Individuals with oral HSV-1 infection (i.e. cold sore).○ Healthy individuals may actively shed Strep. pneumonia, Haemophilus influenza as well as other organisms.• Place sterile towels underneath your patient.• Clean the skin with chlorhexidine or povidone iodine.• Collect a specimen of 200 uL minimum uncentrifuged cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).• Cap the collection tubes immediately after collection.• Immediately transport sample at room temperature. <p>Note: 200uL is the minimum volume required to perform this testing. Additional volume will need to be collected for any additional tests, or if the testing needs to be repeated.</p>
Specimen Stability	Room Temperature: 1 day Refrigerated: 7 days
Performed	Sunday through Saturday 24/7
CPT	87483

The BioFire FilmArray Meningitis/Encephalitis (ME) Panel is a qualitative multiplexed nucleic acid-based in vitro diagnostic test. The BioFire ME Panel is capable of simultaneous detection and identification of multiple bacterial, viral and yeast nucleic acids directly from cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens obtained via lumbar puncture from individuals with signs and/or symptoms of meningitis and/or encephalitis. The following organisms can be identified using the BioFire ME Panel:

Bacteria:

- *Escherichia coli* K1
- *Haemophilus influenzae*
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Neisseria meningitidis* (encapsulated)
- *Streptococcus agalactiae*
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Viruses:

- Cytomegalovirus
- Enterovirus
- Herpes simplex virus 1
- Herpes simplex virus 2
- Human herpesvirus 6
- Human parechovirus
- Varicella zoster virus

Yeast:

- *Cryptococcus neoformans/gatti*

For any questions about this test update, please contact:
Stephanie Spurr, MLS (ASCP), Laboratory Supervisor, Stephanie.Spurr@UCHealth.org