

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	File name: CSF Sample Requirements
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Q-Pulse Document No: B-NOTICE-62	Version 3

CSF Lumbar Puncture Sample Requirements

Sample Forms

All forms should be labelled with the patient's : **Full name / NHS number / Date of birth**

Date/time of blood/CSF collection

Date/time of onset of symptoms

Requesting doctor's name and bleep no.

Patient location

Clinical indication for request

Sample tubes

All samples should be labelled with the patient's : **Full name / NHS number / Date of birth**

Time of CSF/blood collection

Order of draw

Sample tube for CSF samples	Inform correct Path Lab Dept. of impending arrival	Form	Minimum sample volume	Labelled with order of draw
Grey top fluoride tube	Biochemistry (for CSF glucose and protein)	Green	0.5 ml CSF	
White universal	Microbiology	Blue	1 ml CSF	1
White universal	Microbiology	Blue	1 ml CSF	2
White universal	Microbiology	Blue	1 ml CSF	3
White universal (protect from light)	Biochemistry (for Xanthochromia and/or Oligoclonal Bands)	Green	1 ml CSF (please fill well above conical of universal, see photo)	4
Gold top gel tube	Biochemistry	Green	1 ml blood	Required with CSF sample 4

Xanthochromia note - for identification of subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) it is recommended that CSF is not sampled until at least 12 hours and no longer than 14 days after a suspected event , to prevent a false negative result.

At least 1 ml CSF is required for sample 4, to ensure correct sample level in cuvette for analysis (see photo on right).



