

**Date:** February 11, 2019  
**To:** Central Zone Nursing Units  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** Spinal Fluid Collection Protocol

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**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

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**Key Message:**

- The Spinal Fluid Collection Protocol has been updated. The changes are summarized as follows:
  - A new protocol for (suspected) leukemia, lymphoma and metastatic carcinoma has been added.
  - Cytology testing has been removed from the other protocols, as it is considered unnecessary except in the added protocol.
  - Lab notification for suspected CJD cases has been highlighted, to emphasize the importance of contacting the pathologist on call prior to collection of the sample.
- Please note that these protocols are designed to be used in standard clinical settings. If there is a need for additional or alternative testing of the fluid in an individual case, please order tests as needed.

**Action Required:**

- Use the updated Spinal Fluid Collection Protocol form, and **discard the printed copies of the previous version.**
- The updated form is available for order from the Print Shop or it can be printed as form 09393 from the External Web Laboratory Services page under **Forms and Requisitions** under **Lab Test Directories and Collection Information.**

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

Dr Angela Thompson by phone 403-343-4714 or via email at:  
[Angela.Thompson@albertahealthservices.ca](mailto:Angela.Thompson@albertahealthservices.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

Dr. G. Horne, Pathology and Lab Medicine, Site Chief – Red Deer Hospital, Alberta Public Laboratories