

Collection and storage of CSF samples for CSF 14-3-3/RT-QuIC analysis

1. We require at least 0.5ml of clear and colourless CSF, if it is blood-stained in anyway this invalidates the test. We do not accept CSF sample with a RCC of greater than 150.
2. The CSF sample should be collected into a routine universal container.
3. If the lumbar puncture is traumatic we advise that the CSF sample is collected in a series of containers until it is clear. We advise that the RCC is performed on the clearest sample.
4. It must be sent to your microbiology, biochemistry or other pathology department for storage. Ask the laboratory to freeze the CSF sample. It should be frozen within 2- 3 hours. A normal -20°C freezer is acceptable but if the lab has a -70°C/-80°C that is better.
5. Once the requesting clinician has discussed the request with our clinical team, a member of the NCJDRSU laboratory staff will contact the local laboratory and arrange for a courier to collect the CSF sample.
6. The turnaround time is approximately 5-7 working days after receipt of the CSF sample.
7. The results will be sent directly to the requesting clinician.