

Updates to Spinal Fluid Collection & Labeling in Beaker

Notification Date: 5/27/2025
Effective Date: Immediately

A change to the CSF Beaker Build, effective immediately, results in a change in how labels print for spinal fluid collections.

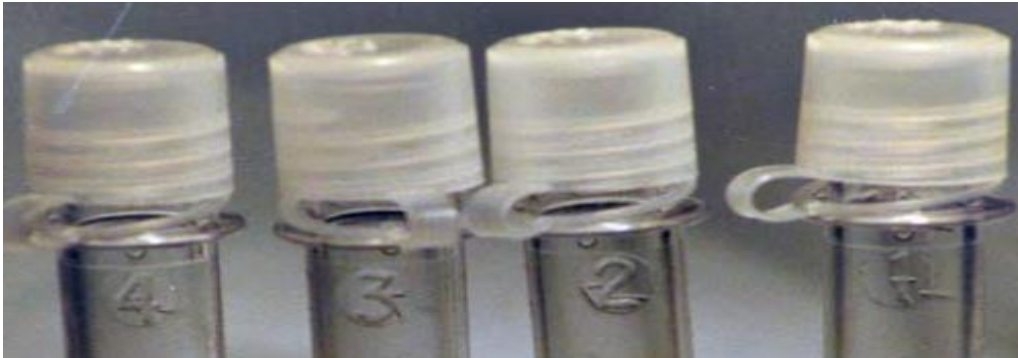
Depending on the orders placed, users will get a different number of labels. If a user has more tubes than labels, please re-print a label to get as many labels as needed. If a user has more labels than tubes, then send the additional labels down in the bag with the labeled tube(s).

NOTE: All tubes need to have a label attached or 2 patient identifiers on the sample. Unlabeled sample may be rejected.

Labels will print in the following manner:

- One label / specimen ID is created for all **non-culture** tests that require a **CSF tube**. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Spinal Fluid Cell Count
 - CSF Total Protein
 - CSF Glucose
 - Encephalopathy, Autoimmune/Paraneoplastic Evaluation, Spinal Fluid
 - VDRL, Spinal Fluid
 - Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel
 - CSF Cryptococcus Ag
- One label / specimen ID is created for **each culture** test ordered. This includes:
 - CSF Culture
 - AFB Culture
 - Fungal Culture
- Two labels / specimen IDs are created for all other tests that require a **CSF / SST tube***. One label is for the CSF and one label is for the SST tube. If one of the two tubes is not being collected at that time, then the extra label can be placed in the bag with the tubes. These tests include:
 - Oligoclonal Banding, Serum and Spinal Fluid
 - Lyme Central Nervous System Infection IgG with Antibody Index Reflex, Serum and Spinal Fluid
 - Cerebrospinal Fluid IgG Index Profile, Serum and Spinal Fluid
- One label / specimen ID is created for the special **CSF Biomarker Tube** (obtainable by contacting your local lab). This includes:
 - Alzheimer Disease Evaluation

Ensure to collect the spinal fluid in order. The numbers 1-4 are etched on the tubes for easy correlation.



ProMedica Labs follows best practice and will use the following guidelines when choosing which tube to perform which test on. If the provider would like a different protocol (ex. Traumatic tap) followed, this must be communicated to lab.

Tube #	Test
1	Chemistry
2	Microbiology
3	Hematology (BFCT)
4	Cytology
Any (if NOT specified by the physician or test directory)	Send Outs

In the example below, 1 label would print for non-culture CSF tests. However, if 3 tubes were actually collected, then the user would select **Reprint Labels** x2 to obtain a label for each tube. Tube 1 would be used for the glucose and total protein, tube 3 would be used for the cell count. Tube 2 would be considered an extra and stored for potential add on tests.

In another example, if a CSF culture a Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel, CSF Total Protein, CSF Glucose and a Lyme Central Nervous System Infection were to be ordered then 4 labels would print:

- 1-CSF culture (Culture)
- 2- Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel, CSF Total Protein, CSF Glucose (Non-Culture)
- 3 & 4- Lyme Central Nervous System Infection (CSF/SST)

If 4 tubes were collected, the user could place one of these labels on each tube. Once in the lab, lab staff would appropriately apply the tests to the correct tube using the protocol above. If an SST tube was not available for the Lymes test, Lab would request a draw.

For questions, please contact Laboratory Customer Service at
419-291-4134