

# Laboratory News

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## Ordering lab test “Rapidly Progressive Dementia Evaluation, Spinal Fluid” [Test Code: RPDES0] and Handling of CSF Samples from Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

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### Ordering Information

Prion agents can remain infectious for years when dried, and they are resistant to routine sterilization techniques. This presents a challenge for healthcare facilities when using instruments to process specimens from patients suspected of having Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

In our health system, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens collected for suspected cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) is referred to Mayo Clinic Laboratories for testing. It is essential to collect these specimens in the specific tubes provided in the MAYO Specialized Collection Kit. Below is information on how to obtain the MAYO Specialized Collection Kit. Using this kit not only ensures the samples are suitable for testing but also alerts staff to take precautions to prevent exposure.

Ways to order specialty collection kit (Mayo item T966, “CJD/RPD Evaluation Collection Kit”):

- Marshfield center provider: Call the laboratory at 16226 or email SPECIMEN PROCESSING (SHARED) ([specimenprocessing@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:specimenprocessing@marshfieldclinic.org)) to request collection kits.
- Regional center provider: Contact your regional center lab to request the kit.

## Test Details

### RPDESO

Test Information can be found in the online [Test Reference Directory](#), searching by keyword or test code [RPDESO](#).

- Test Code: RPDESO - Rapidly Progressive Dementia Evaluation, Spinal Fluid
- Specimen Collection:
  - CSF collected using tubes provided in Mayo CJD/RPD Evaluation Kit (T966)
  - Both tubes in kit must contain 1.5 to 2 mL CSF each

### Collection Instructions

- Perform lumbar puncture and discard the first 1 to 2 mL of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF).
- Collect two tubes of CSF directly into an acceptable collection tube until the tube is at least 50% full. **Place the tubes back in the collection kit bag and label the specimens or bag with “CJD Precautions-Special Handling”.**
- Send CSF specimens in the original collection tubes. **Do not aliquot.**
- Regional Center Laboratory Staff: Do not open bag or perform any testing on these specimens. Send specimens to Marshfield for handling/processing.

### Questions

Please call Marshfield Labs Customer Service at 1-800-222-5835 with questions.