

ADULT LUMBAR PUNCTURE (LP) CHECKLIST

This **LocSSIP** applies to all adult lumbar punctures undertaken in CDDFT. **Must-do procedural steps:**

1. To ensure compliance with best practice:
 - a. CDDFT's adult lumbar puncture pathway and procedural checklist **must** be used.
 - b. The operator **must** dispose of all sharps before leaving the procedural area.
 - c. The operator **must** only use the LP needles authorised by the Trust (CDDFT).
2. To reduce the risk of epidural haematoma:
 - a. Consideration **must** be given to any antiplatelet or anticoagulant medication being taken by the patient.
 - b. If indicated, recent blood results **must** be checked, and action taken to correct abnormalities if required.
 - c. The patient's platelet count **must** be $>100 \times 10^9/L$.
3. To reduce the risk of lumbar puncture associated infection:
 - a. The operator **must** wear sterile gloves after scrubbing.
 - b. Tinted Chloraprep 2% in 70% alcohol **must** be used and allowed to dry for 3 minutes.
4. To reduce the risk of cerebrospinal fluid leak:
 - a. When the needle is removed, pressure **must** be applied to the site until leakage stops.
 - b. Advice **must** be given regarding complications; e.g. leakage from site, headache, backache.
5. To ensure all samples are appropriately labelled and are received by the laboratory for prompt processing, the operator **must** ensure:
 - a. White topped specimens (1 and 4) are accompanied by a blue 'microbiology' form; all other samples accompanied by a biochemistry form.
 - b. That clearly labelled blood glucose, bilirubin and protein samples are concurrently supplied to the laboratory.
 - c. Sample 5 (for xanthochromia testing) is protected from light. The time of symptom onset/LP and CT scan results (if scan undertaken) is recorded with the clinical details.
 - d. Samples arrive within 1 hour of being taken. Both Biochemistry AND Microbiology Biomedical Scientists **must** be informed:
 - i. **Biochemistry** contact the laboratory on extension 32439 (UHND) or 43695 (DMH).
 - ii. **Microbiology** routine hours (8am until 8pm weekdays, 8am until 4pm weekends and bank holidays) contact the laboratory on extension 32450 / 32448. All other times contact the microbiology Biomedical Scientist on call via switchboard.
 - e. DMH samples are dispatched to the correct laboratory:
 - i. Normal working days 9am to 4pm; **hand deliver** directly to DMH laboratory. All other times (including weekends and bank holidays); contact both Biochemistry and Microbiology lab personnel at UHND via switchboard. Clinician to arrange taxi to collect samples from the ward for **hand delivery** to UHND lab.
 - ii. Samples **must** be securely transported in an appropriately labelled, rigid, opaque (so no patient identifiable information can be observed), leakproof container. These can be obtained from ED, AMU, paediatric wards or the pathology department. Additional ward stock can be obtained by contacting the Medical Laboratory Assistants in microbiology during routine hours on extension 43242.

Associated guidelines:

- Care Group Area LocSSIP describing all NatSSIP principals which apply to this invasive procedure and checklist.
- Xanthochromia Screening, Online Pathology Handbook, CDDFT.