

**SPECIMEN  
REQUIREMENT  
REMINDER**

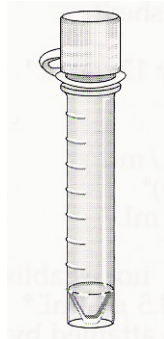
**NOTIFICATION DATE:** October 22, 2009

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CSF TRANSPORTATION REMINDER  
SWAB-TYPE REQUIREMENTS**

**CSF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS NOTED:**

An increasing number of leaking tubes containing cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) have been received by MML. The types of tubes that are found to have a higher tendency to leak in transport are tubes with attached loop screw caps (see below).



Many hospitals use these tubes for collection, but MML advises aliquoting the specimen from these collection tubes to a smaller plastic serum aliquot tube that seals more securely (MML Supply T465). Another tube that can be used for transport is a sterile vial (MML Supply T485) when sterility is required. Please use these supply item tubes for safe transportation of CSF to MML.

**SWAB REQUIREMENTS:**

Swabs with wood handles will no longer be accepted for Rapid PCR tests and Virus Culture testing. Wood has been found to be inhibitory to PCR and toxic to some virus. All tests requiring a swab specimen should be collected using a sterile Dacron tipped swab with a plastic handle (MML Supply T507).

**QUESTIONS:**

Mayo Medical Laboratories' Technical Support  
Telephone: 800-533-1710