



office use only

Irish Meningitis & Sepsis Reference Laboratory,  
Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Temple Street,  
Dublin, D01 YC67  
Phone: 01-8784432/Fax: 01-8784439  
E-mail: IMSRL@cuh.ie



## Specimen Referral Form

Please write clearly in dark ink

### Sender's Information

Requesting Hospital \_\_\_\_\_ Hospital code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Consultant/GP Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ward Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact no. \_\_\_\_\_

### Patient Information

Hospital No. \_\_\_\_\_ Relevant clinical details/primary diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
 Forename \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Eircode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of onset \_\_\_\_\_ DD / MM / YYYY  
 Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ DD / MM / YYYY Antibiotic therapy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gender:  Male  Female  
 Ethnic origin \_\_\_\_\_ pre-collection antibiotics YES/NO

### Sample Information

Requesting lab. no. \_\_\_\_\_ Date & Time collected \_\_\_\_\_ DD / MM / YYYY || :  
 Clinical specimen  Bacterial isolate  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sample type/Source**  
 CSF  CSF WCC \_\_\_\_\_  CSF RBC \_\_\_\_\_  Blood  Joint Fluid  Bone  
 Pleural Fluid  Other sterile site \_\_\_\_\_  Throat  Other non-sterile site \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requesting laboratory findings (i.e. culture details, molecular (in-house/commercial platform) results, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Tests Required

**PCR (Selection criteria will be applied; see page 2 of this form & User Manual; contact laboratory if clarification required)**  
 Meningitis  Septicaemia  Deep tissue Abscess  Bone/Joint infection  
 Empyema  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Isolate identification & typing (susceptibility testing available on request; see reverse) Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presumptive identification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Method used (MALDI, VITEK, FilmArray, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**ALL SPECIMENS ARE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS  
HIGH RISK SPECIMENS MUST BE APPROPRIATELY MARKED**

# Irish Meningitis & Sepsis Reference Laboratory

**LABORATORY HOURS Monday-Friday 09:00 -17:00**

**ENQUIRIES:**

For advice on diagnostic PCR testing/results: 01- 8784432

For advice on isolate identification, typing & susceptibility testing/results: 01-8784857/4854

For advice on patient investigation and interpretation of results:

Consultant Microbiologist contactable via switch (01-8784200)

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Specimens for processing must be transported according to UN Transportation Standard UN3373 to IMSRL in a clearly marked biohazard bag and specimen transport box according to UN Packaging Standard P650 accompanied by this completed IMSRL Request Form

## Diagnostic PCR testing

Ideally samples should be collected as close to onset as possible and prior to administration of antibiotics.

Store samples at 4°C if delay in transportation

**Minimum sample volume (for all specimen types) is 0.5ml (higher volume recommended if repeat or additional testing required)**

Syndrome (specimen type)	Meningitis (CSF) (≥7 days of age)	Sepsis (Blood) (≥7 days of age)	Early onset sepsis & meningitis (< 7 days of age) :Blood	Early onset sepsis & meningitis (< 7 days of age) :CSF	Pleural fluid	Osteomyelitis/ Septic arthritis
<b>Group B Streptococcus</b>	Only if aged < 90 days	Special request only	All	All	Special request only	Special request only
<b>E. coli</b>	Only if patient has <i>E. coli</i> bacteraemia or UTI and is < 90 days and has evidence of meningitis, or has galactosaemia	Not available	Not available	Only if patient has <i>E. coli</i> bacteraemia or UTI and is < 90 days and has evidence of meningitis, or has galactosaemia	Special request only	Special request only
<b>N. meningitidis</b>	All	All	Special request only	Special request only	Special request only	Special request only
<b>S. pneumoniae</b>	All	All	Special request only	Special request only	All	All
<b>H. influenzae (Type b result given for blood and CSF)</b>	All	All	Special request only	Special request only	Special request only	Special request only
<b>S. aureus</b>	Special request only	Not available	Not available	Special request only	All	All
<b>Group A Streptococcus</b>	Special request only	Not available	Not available	Special request only	All	All
<b>Kingella kingae</b>	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Only if <5 years
<b>Listeria monocytogenes</b>	If specifically requested. If age >90 days, must include clinical indication for testing on request form	Not available	Not available	If specifically requested. If age >90 days, must include clinical indication for testing on request form	Not available	Not available

**Turnaround** All samples received for diagnostic PCR by 11 am: Result available between 16.00-17.00 same day.

### ISOLATES

Purified isolate on chocolate agar slope or on charcoal transport swab  
Send isolates on slopes as soon as possible after overnight incubation

Isolate species	Test repertoire	Turnaround Time
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	identification, grouping, typing and susceptibility testing	5-10 days Supplementary report with finetype results issued quarterly (susceptibility testing performed quarterly and results available on request). Urgent samples processed on request.
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	identification, typing and susceptibility testing	10 days (Susceptibility testing performed quarterly and results available on request.) Urgent samples processed on request.
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	identification, typing and susceptibility testing	Testing batched and carried out on a quarterly basis with reports issued quarterly (susceptibility testing results available on request). Urgent samples will be processed on request.
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> (group A streptococcus; GAS)	identification, <i>emm</i> sequence typing and susceptibility testing	Testing batched and carried out on a quarterly basis with reports issued quarterly (susceptibility testing results available on request). Urgent samples processed on request.
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i> (group B streptococcus; GBS)	identification, capsular typing and susceptibility testing	Testing batched and carried out on a quarterly basis with reports issued quarterly (susceptibility testing results available on request). Urgent samples processed on request.
<i>Kingella kingae</i>	identification, typing and susceptibility testing	Testing batched and carried out on a quarterly basis with identification reports issued quarterly

This form is available for electronic download (along with User Manual) from <http://www.cuh.ie>