Recommended testing for patients with findings suggestive of acute (<8 days of symptoms) meningitis or encephalitis. NOT: Not intended for patients with cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) shunts or possible central nervous system surgical site infections. Infectious Diseases and/or Neurology specialty consultation is recommended.

- Lumbar puncture to obtain CSF. Order the following tests and retain CSF for additional testing:
  - Opening pressure (may not be indicated in neonates/infants)
  - Cytology, cell count and differential
  - Protein and glucose
  - Gram stain
  - Bacterial culture (aerobic with antimicrobial susceptibility testing)
  - Cryptococcal antigens, if indicated per patient risk factors
  - Blood cultures

Infectious Diseases and/or Neurology specialty consultation is recommended.

- Pathogen-specific infection management
- CSF parameters do not suggest infection
- CSF parameters suggest infection
- Reevaluate patient

Additional testing should be tailored based on clinical presentation, risk factors, CSF parameters, and exposure history.

- If not previously performed, consider:
  - CLFA / Cryptococcus Antigen Screen with Titer, Spinal Fluid
  - HSVC / Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Molecular Detection, PCR, Spinal Fluid
  - Syphilis testing
  - SYPH1 / Syphilis IgG with Reflex, Enzyme Immunoassay, Serum
  - VDRL / VDRL, Spinal Fluid
  - Fungal and mycobacterial testing
  - FS / Fungal Smear, Varies
  - CTB / Mycobacteria and Nocardia Culture, Varies
  - SAFB / Acid-Fast Smear for Mycobacterium, Varies
  - MTBRP / Mycobacterium tuberculosis Complex, Molecular Detection, PCR
  - HBRP / Histoplasma capsulatum/Blastomyces species, Molecular Detection, PCR, Varies
  - HICBL / Histoplasma/Blastomyces Panel, Spinal Fluid
  - SHSTO / Histoplasma Antibody, Serum
  - FUNSF / Fungitell, CSF (1,3-beta-D-glucan)
  - BLAST / Blastomyces Antibody by Enzyme Immunoassay, Serum
  - COXIS / Coccidioides Antibody with Reflex, Serum
  - COCD / Coccidioides Antibody, Spinal Fluid
  - CIMRP / Coccidioides immitis/posadasi, Molecular Detection, PCR

- Vector-borne testing
  - Mosquito-borne pathogens
    - Refer to the Mosquito-borne Disease Laboratory Testing Algorithm for information
  - Tick-borne pathogens
    - LNBAAB / Lyme Central Nervous System Infection IgG with Antibody Index Reflex, Serum and Spinal Fluid (see Lyme Neuroborreliosis Diagnostic Algorithm)
    - PBORR / Lyme Disease, Molecular Detection, PCR, Varies
    - POWV / Powassan Virus, RNA, Molecular Detection, PCR, Blood
    - POWVC / Powassan Virus, RNA, Molecular Detection, PCR, CSF
    - PPTX / Toxoplasma gondii, Molecular Detection, PCR
    - POWVS / Powassan Virus, RNA, Molecular Detection, PCR

- Parasitic testing
  - FLARP / Free-Living Amebae, Molecular Detection, PCR
  - COXIS / Coccidioides Antibody with Reflex, Serum
  - COCD / Coccidioides Antibody, Spinal Fluid

- Other considerations
  - BRBPS / Broad Range Bacterial PCR and Sequencing, Varies
  - HIVDX / HIV-1 and HIV-2 Antigen and Antibody Diagnostic Evaluation, Plasma
  - LCJC / JC Virus, Molecular Detection, PCR, Spinal Fluid