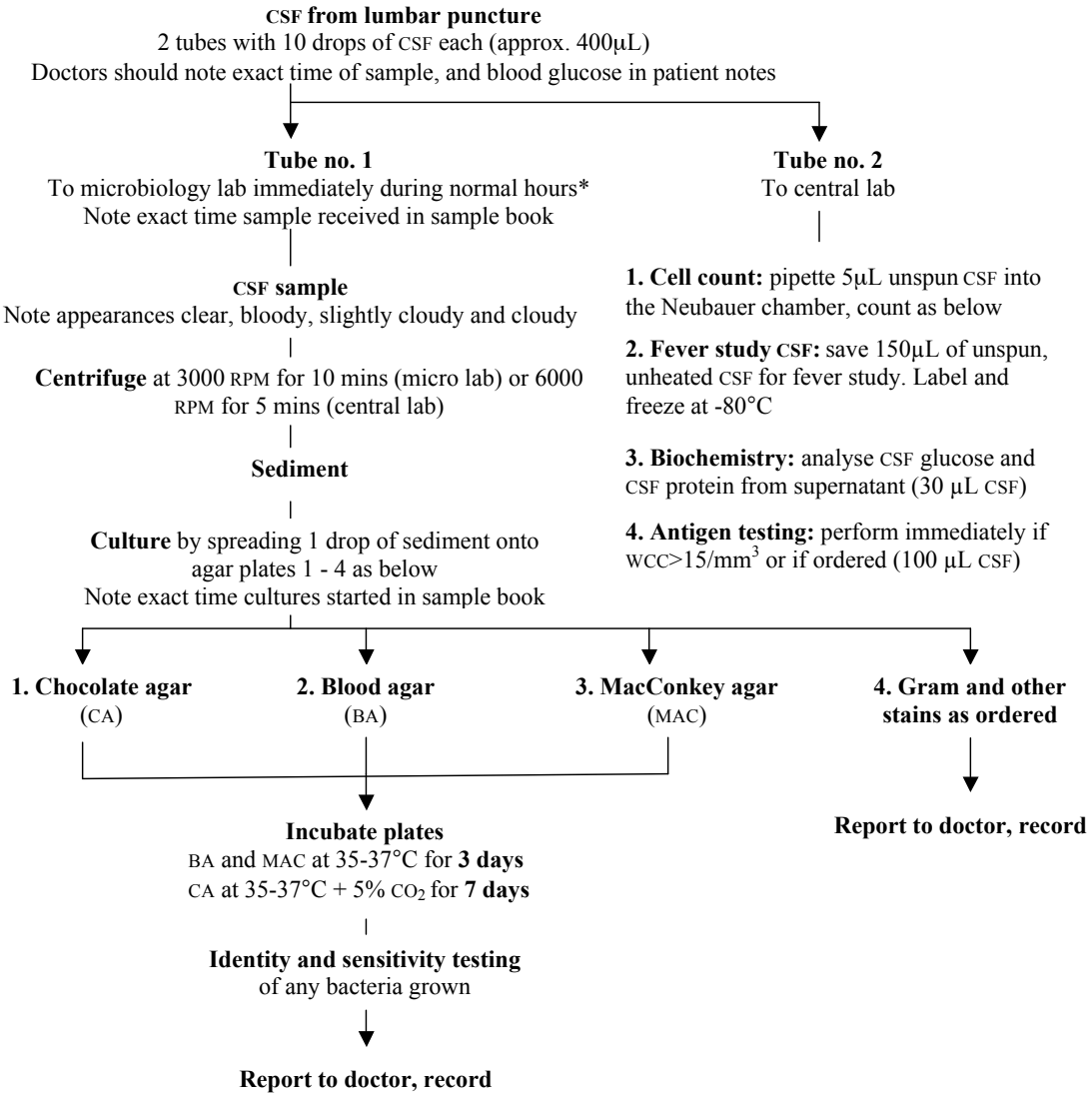
Figure S1.


CSF from lumbar puncture
2 tubes with 10 drops of CSF each (approx. 400µL)
Doctors should note exact time of sample, and blood glucose in patient notes
Tube no. 1
To microbiology lab immediately during normal hours*
Note exact time sample received in sample book
Tube no. 2
To central lab
CSF sample
Note appearances clear, bloody, slightly cloudy and cloudy
Centrifuge at 3000 RPM for 10 mins (micro lab) or 6000 RPM for 5 mins (central lab)
Sediment
Culture by spreading 1 drop of sediment onto agar plates 1 - 4 as below
Note exact time cultures started in sample book
1. Cell count: pipette 5µL unspun CSF into the Neubauer chamber, count as below
2. Fever study CSF: save 150µL of unspun, unheated CSF for fever study. Label and freeze at -80°C
3. Biochemistry: analyse CSF glucose and CSF protein from supernatant (30 µL CSF)
4. Antigen testing: perform immediately if WCC>15/mm3 or if ordered (100 µL CSF)
1. Chocolate agar (CA)
2. Blood agar (BA)
3. MacConkey agar (MAC)
4. Gram and other stains as ordered
Report to doctor, record
Incubate plates
BA and MAC at 35-37°C for 3 days
CA at 35-37°C + 5% CO2 for 7 days
Identity and sensitivity testing
of any bacteria grown
Report to doctor, record