

Creutzfeldt-Jakob and Transmissible Spongiform Encephalitis Protocol

- This policy provides a basic introduction for CJD and TSE specimens. Refer to respective laboratory procedures or institutional policy ([III-16: Hospital Precautions for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Policy](#)) for more information.

1. Method of Transmission

- Although the mode of transmission is unclear, mucous membranes and breaks in the skin are considered portals of entry.
- Close contact is not considered significant for transmission.
- The processing, analysis and disposal of specimens with or suspected of having Creutzfeldt-Jakob (CJD) or other transmissible spongiform encephalopathy's must be handled as regulated medical waste with additional precautions.

2. Specimens Requiring CJD and TSE Precautions

- Brain
- CSF
- Eye
- Kidney
- Liver
- Lung
- Lymph nodes
- Placenta
- Spinal cord
- Spleen

3. Processing and Analysis of Specimens

- ALL specimens and requisitions should be labeled as "CJD" or "TSE."
- Follow routine body substance precautions (BSP) when processing and analyzing specimens. If available, conduct specimen processing within a biological safety cabinet to minimize exposure.
- When possible, use disposable supplies for specimen processing and avoid the use of sharps.
- Items coming in contact with the specimen must be pre-treated and contained in an approved labeled container to be medically incinerated.

4. Exposure

- Skin contamination: clean with a 1:10 dilution of bleach made daily or 0.1N NaOH for 1 minute.
- Needle sticks or lacerations: encourage bleeding and wash (avoid scrubbing) with warm soapy water.
- Seek medical attention.
- Exposure of intact skin or mucous membrane (except of the eye) poses negligible risk.

5. Cleaning and Specimen Disposal

- Hard surfaces contaminated with material:
 - Remove as much organic matter as possible.
 - Disinfect with full strength bleach for 1 hour.
 - Rinse with water or 70% ethanol to remove bleach residue.
- Reusable items:
 - Rinse item with 1:5 dilution of bleach in a container to be discarded using the CJD protocol.
 - Soak immediately in full strength bleach for 1 hour.
 - Clean item using routine cleaning procedures.
- All waste and disposal items:
 - If possible, complete the following in the hood:
 1. Put the blue pad with specimen and material into a discard bag or bucket.
 2. Put on new gloves.
 3. Pour at least 500 mL full strength bleach over all material so the bleach comes in contact with everything.
 4. Secure bag shut and take out of the hood.
 - Put on new gloves
 - Place discard container into a heavy duty plastic bag and secure bag with a stay-tie.
 - Place the bag in a CJD discard barrel.
 - Dispose of lab coat and gloves per routine procedure, wash hands with soap and water and put on clean clothes.
 - Seal discard barrel with strapping tape.
 - Label outside of barrel: **CJD: Pre-treated with bleach Biohazard**
 - Take barrel to B2, H300 (behind elevator), put on floor to left of loading dock for medical incineration.


6. Supplies for Disposal of CJD/TSE Materials

- To order 5 gallon fiberboard drums call OSEH at 34568 and provide where drums should be delivered, contact person, and short code.
- Kits for disposing of items should include a small needle box, stay ties, and 2 heavy-duty plastic bags.
- If supplies are not available in the laboratory, call the morgue 6-6701 or contact on-call autopsy resident at 6-7820 to obtain supplies from the morgue (B2H250 UH) on a weekend or holiday.

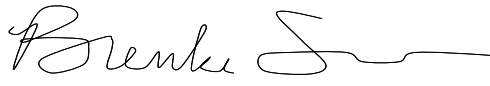
References

[III-16: Hospital Precautions for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Policy](#)

[WHO Infection Control Guidelines for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies](#), March, 1999 (WHO/CDS/CSR/APH/2000.3): infectivity of specimens, personal protective equipment, cleaning hard surfaces and skin exposure.

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