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IMPORTANT UPDATE!

TO: All NH physicians
FROM: Deanna Danskin, Microbiology Quality Resource Technologist
DATE: 16 July 2018
RE: Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD) Safety and test approval

All requests for 14-3-3 Protein testing will require pathologist approval. If a patient is suspected of having Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, please ensure that Northern Health's Clinical Practice Standard for Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CPS 1-11-1-1-170) is followed.

If CSF samples are being sent to the lab for testing on a suspected CJD patient, it is critical that the lab is properly notified. Due to the risk associated with CJD, and the difficulty in disinfecting equipment that has come in contact with infectious prions, the laboratory must follow special precautions when handling these samples. As per CPS 1-11-1-1-170, please:

"Clearly label all specimens as potentially infected with Creutzfeldt-Jacob when sending to the laboratory"

It is also recommended that the ordering physician call the lab and discuss the testing requests with a NH pathologist. All requests for 14-3-3 Protein will require pathologist approval. Due to laboratory safety protocols, certain tests on CSF may not be available on suspected CJD patients, or may be deferred until CJD is ruled out.