Suspected or Confirmed Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease or variant CJD

**Purpose:** To provide information and references to LSUHSCS guidelines regarding Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease or vCJD.

**Definition:**
Confirmatory diagnosis of CJD or requires neuropathologic and/or immunodiagnostic testing of brain tissue obtained either at biopsy or autopsy. vCJD can only be confirmed by tissue examination at biopsy or autopsy.

**Route of Transmission:**
- Sporadic - no infectious source or evidence of transmission, (85-90%)
- Inherited mutations of the prion protein gene (5-15%)
- Exposure to contaminated tissue. No reported cases since 1976.

**Surgery Scheduling:** The surgeon scheduling a case is responsible for screening the patient for CJD and vCJD, and for notifying the scheduler of a known or suspected case at the time the case is posted. The scheduler will notify the surgery supervisor, and will book the case at the end of the day.

**Isolation on general care units:** Standard Precautions. (See Infection Control Isolation Guidelines, IC 1.0 online on the Intranet.)

**Surgery Guidelines:** Reference OR department specific guidelines, “Disease Specific Environmental Considerations: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease,” for requirements during surgical procedure and after surgical procedure, and Procedures for Cleaning the Environment, located in the surgery supervisor’s office.

**Central Medical Supply:** Reference Department Specific Guidelines, Infection Control Guideline, “Disease Specific Environmental Considerations: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease”, for requirements during surgical procedure and after surgical procedure, located in the CMS supervisor’s office.

**Autopsy:** Department of Pathology Autopsy Infection Control Guidelines “Special Autopsy Instructions for Creutzfeldt-Jakob Cases”, when performing autopsies on CJD and suspected CJD patients, located in the Department of Pathology.

**References:**

CDC, Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease fact sheet, published online September 4, 2013, at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/vcjd/factsheet_nvcjd.htm#prevention>


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