

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT DISEASE INVESTIGATION STEPS

NC REPORTABLE DISEASE/CONDITION	NC DISEASE CODE	INFECTIOUS AGENT (S)
CREUTZFELDT – JAKOB DISEASE (CJD)	66	<i>PRION</i>
PREPARING FOR INVESTIGATION		
KNOW THE DISEASE/CONDITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read about Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the CD Manual. • See the case definition for Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the CD Manual. • Search and read recent CDC article(s) on CJD. • Study APHA <i>Control of Communicable Diseases Manual</i>, 19th ed., pp 216 – 222. • Refer to CDC article “Information on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease For Funeral Home, Cemetery, and Crematory Practitioners” dated April 25, 2005 from the following website: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cjd/funeral_directors.htm • Print and review reporting forms: <i>Part 1: Confidential Disease Report (DHHS 2124)</i> <i>Part 2: Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (DHHS/EPI #66)</i> 	
CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION		
COLLECT CLINICAL INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis frequently made post-mortem, obtain autopsy report. • If patient hospitalized for this disease, obtain medical record (admission note, progress note, lab report(s), and discharge summary). • Obtain healthcare provider clinical notes from date(s) of service for this disease/condition. • Look for evidence in the medical record that supports clinical findings described in the case definition. 	
REVIEW LABORATORY INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review laboratory report(s) specific to this disease. Note: Confirmatory lab reports usually result from testing done at the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center at Case Western Reserve University. Results are routinely forwarded to DHHS/DPH. • Evaluate laboratory results to determine if requirements of the case definition are satisfied. 	
APPLY THE CASE DEFINITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the CDC case definition to determine if the clinical and laboratory findings meet the case definition criteria. 	

IMPLEMENTING CONTROL MEASURES	
ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY SOURCE OF EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review clinical records for potential source(s) of exposure. If source of exposure is not evident in clinical information, interview family to obtain additional information about patient (past surgical history, tissue, organ, bone, or bone marrow transplant, dura mater graft, human-derived pituitary hormone extract, blood or blood product transfusions; history of travel to variant CJD endemic countries; history of hunting or exposure to animal or human neural tissue).
IMPLEMENT CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT DISEASE AND ADDITIONAL EXPOSURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the CDC website, www.cdc.gov to teach at risk people about the disease. Be aware of special World Health Organization (WHO) infection control guidelines regarding sterilization. Review the article at the following website: http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/bse/WHO_CDS_CSRAPH_2000_3/en/ Educate persons at potential risk of exposure (e.g. persons who will handle the body postmortem and healthcare workers who may come in contact with CNS fluids during care). Reassure healthcare workers and family members that this disease is not spread by normal contact.
REPORTING INVESTIGATION	
REPORT TO NC COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH (CD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enter Part 1 and Part 2 Communicable Disease Reports into NC EDSS as a new event, or update the existing event if already entered. Assign event to State Disease Registrar when case investigation complete. Do an "Event_Print" in NC EDSS after assigning to the state. Keep for one year along with any additional notes. Maintain as a surveillance file, not a medical record.
CASE FINDING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the course of the investigation, look for history of disease in deceased family members. If two or more current cases are found that are epidemiologically linked, report as an outbreak of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE MEASURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universal precautions and special precautions during autopsy and postmortem care. See CDC article reference (above) for funeral directors.
RISK COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider using risk communication tools conservatively if this is a low profile, randomly-occurring case. Outbreaks will need NC HAN alerts, EPI-X reports, MD alerts, and a press release. NC DHHS Public Information Office (919) 733-9190 is available to assist local health departments as needed.