Handling of CSF with Known or Suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)

Name of Policy: Handling of CSF with Known or Suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)
Policy Number: 3364-107-410
Department: Pathology-Laboratory
Approving Officer: Chief Executive Officer-UTMC, Director, Clinical Pathology-Hematopathology
Responsible Agent: Administrative Director, Lab
Scope: Pathology-Laboratory

Effective Date: 2/20/2017
Initial Effective Date: 5/2/2011

(A) Policy Statement

CJD is a progressive fatal disease of the central nervous system. It is believed to be caused by a transmissible, unconventional infectious particle called a prion which is resistant to usual methods of sterilization or decontamination. Potentially infectious body fluids from patients with known or suspected CJD include brain tissue and CSF.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide guidelines for the management of patient specimens with known or suspected Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

(C) Procedure

1. All samples should be handled using standard precautions.
2. Samples should be labeled as "suspected CJD" before sending to laboratory.
3. Disposable supplies are to be used as much as possible and immediately disposed of into a red sharps container for medical waste disposal.
4. Any CSF that needs spun down must be done in a closed centrifuge.
5. Disposable hemocytometers should be used for cell counts.
6. In Microbiology, requests for CSF culture for bacterial, fungal, or acid fast organisms will be processed using routine procedures.
7. All benchtops/work surfaces that are exposed to contaminated CSF should be decontaminated with hospital approved disinfectant.
8. All disposable equipment should be disposed of as medical waste in a sharps container.
Approved by:

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Review/Revision Completed By:

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Policies Superseded by This Policy: S-10

Review/Revision Date:

- 5/2/2011
- 5/1/2012
- 3/1/2013
- 2/20/2017

Next Review Date: 2/20/2019