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| **Approval\*:** |
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| **\*Approval and Acknowledgements\*** |
| Refer to Q-Pulse system and Document Details report for laboratory directors(s)’ electronic signature approval, employee acknowledgment and effective date |

1. **PRINCIPLE**
   1. The Division of Autopsy Services does NOT perform autopsies on individuals with confirmed or suspected prion diseases, such as Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (CJD), or on individuals with confirmed or suspected Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) infections, such as the Ebola virus
   2. Adequate clinical history is critical in the determination of potential cases of prion disease with particular attention directed toward the following signs/symptoms:
      1. Rapidly progressive dementia of less than three years total duration (typically less than one year)
      2. Dementia with seizures, particularly myoclonic seizures
      3. Dementia associated with cerebellar or lower motor neuron signs
   3. If an autopsy is requested on a patient with confirmed or suspected prion disease, the next-of-kin (NOK) and the medical team are directed to the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center (NPDPSC). Disposition of the decedent is at the preference of the NOK.
2. **TEST PROCEDURE:**
   1. **PRION DISEASE (e.g. CJD)**
      1. Due to the infectious nature of prion diseases such as CJD, autopsies are NOT performed. The NOK must be directed to the NPDPSC via Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.
         1. OSUWMC staff may aid in printing documents, but may not obtain consent for NPDPSC
         2. All transportation arrangements, clinical information exchange, and consents must be organized by the NPDPSC staff and the NOK along with the treatment team
         3. Information may be obtained at the following:

**National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center**

**Department of Pathology**

**Case Western Reserve University**

**2085 Adelbert Road, Room 419**

**Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4907**

**Tel: 216-368-0587**

**Email:** [**cjdsurveillance@uhhospitals.org**](mailto:cjdsurveillance@uhhospitals.org)

* 1. **BSL-4 INFECTIONS (e.g. EBOLA)**
     1. Refer to Lab Safety-32 for departmental policies and procedures

1. **REFERENCES (as applicable):** 
   1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *Guidance for Safe Handling of Human Remains of Ebola Patients in U.S. Hospitals and Mortuaries*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/healthcare-us/hospitals/handling-human-remains.html>
   2. College of American Pathologist. *Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease: Safety tips for anatomic studies of possible CJD*. Barbara J Crain, MD, PhD
   3. *Handling Prions and CJD in the Laboratory: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Employees*. Peggy Prinz Luebbert, MS, MT(ASCP), CIC, CHSP
2. **RELATED DOCUMENTS**
   1. Refer to Q-Pulse System or Document Detail Report for related Laboratory Policies, Procedures, and Master Forms