Autopsy Requests for Suspected/Confirmed Prion Disease (e.g. CJD) and Biosafety Level 4 Pathogens (e.g. Ebola)  
Department of Clinical Laboratories  
The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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<td>Division of Autopsy Services</td>
<td>Policy &amp; Procedure</td>
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<td>All Division of Autopsy Services Staff with Applicable Residents, PAs, &amp; Faculty</td>
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**Approval**:  
Director of Autopsy Services Division  
University Hospitals Laboratory Medical Director

**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**
1.1. The Division of Autopsy Services does **NOT** perform autopsies on individuals with confirmed or suspected prion diseases, such as Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (CJD) or certain highly virulent pathogens, such as the Ebola virus.
1.2. Adequate clinical history is critical in the determination of potential cases of prion disease with particular attention directed toward the following signs/symptoms:
   1.2.1. Rapidly progressive dementia of less than three years total duration (typically less than one year)
   1.2.2. Dementia with seizures, particularly myoclonic seizures
   1.2.3. Dementia associated with cerebellar or lower motor neuron signs
1.3. 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:**
2.1. **PRION DISEASE (e.g. CJD)**
   2.1.1. Due to the infectious nature of prion diseases such as CJD, autopsies are **NOT** performed. Instead, the NOK requesting the autopsy must be directed to the NPDPSC via Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.
   a. OSUWMC staff may aid in printing documents, but may not facilitate consent for NPDPSC
   b. All transportation arrangements, clinical information exchange, and consents must be orchestrated by the staff at NPDPSC and the NOK with the medical team assigned to the decedent
   c. Information may be obtained at the following:

   **National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center**
   Institute of Pathology
   Case Western Reserve University
   2085 Adelbert Road, Room 418
   Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4907
   Tel: 216-368-0587
   Email: cjdsurv@case.edu

2.2. **BIOSAFETY LEVEL 4 PATHOGENS (e.g. EBOLA)**
   2.2.1. Refer to Lab Safety-32 for departmental policies and procedures

3. **REFERENCES (as applicable):**
3.2. College of American Pathologist. *Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease: Safety tips for anatomic studies of possible CJD*. Barbara J Crain, MD, PhD
3.3. *Handling Prions and CJD in the Laboratory: What You Need to Know to Protect Your Employees*. Peggy Prinz Luebbert, MS, MT(ASCP), CIC, CHSP

4. **RELATED DOCUMENTS**
4.1. Refer to Q-Pulse System or Document Detail Report for related Laboratory Policies, Procedures, and Master Forms