

The Joint Commission Sentinel Event Alert

A complimentary publication of
The Joint Commission

September 18, 2013

Addendum to *Sentinel Event Alert* #20: Exposure to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

Published for Joint Commission accredited organizations and interested health care professionals, *Sentinel Event Alert* identifies specific types of sentinel and adverse events and high risk conditions, describes their common underlying causes, and recommends steps to reduce risk and prevent future occurrences.

Accredited organizations should consider information in an Alert when designing or redesigning processes and consider implementing relevant suggestions contained in the Alert or reasonable alternatives.

Please route this issue to appropriate staff within your organization. *Sentinel Event Alert* may only be reproduced in its entirety and credited to The Joint Commission. To receive by email, or to view past issues, visit www.jointcommission.org.

The Joint Commission would like to clarify the recommendations in [Sentinel Event Alert #20](#): Exposure to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) regarding the recommended practice of quarantining equipment:

To minimize the possibility of using neurosurgical instruments that have been potentially contaminated during procedures performed on patients in whom CJD is later diagnosed, health care facilities should consider using the specific evidence-based sterilization guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) ST79:2010 Annex C.

Recommended CJD resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cjd/qa_cjd_infection_control.htm#reprocessed
- World Health Organization (WHO) CJD infection control guidelines:
http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/bse/WHO_CDS_CSR_APH_2000_3/en/
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) ST79:2010 & A1 & A2 & A3 Annex C: Processing CJD-contaminated patient care equipment and environmental surfaces

