

PRION AND HIGH RISK PATHOGENS

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Anthony Hospital Gig Harbor, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, WA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Francis Hospital, Federal Way, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Medical Center, Silverdale, WA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Clare Hospital Lakewood, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Highline Medical Center Burien, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PSC |

PURPOSE

To provide a process for handling Prions and other high risk pathogen specimens in the Microbiology Lab.

BACKGROUND

The risk for healthcare transmission of Prion disease, Protein 14,3,3 (also known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease), SARS, Avian Influenza, MERS, Ebola or other emerging pathogens is dependent upon the probability that an individual has or will develop disease. Precautions must be exercised for certain specimen types that may transmit disease.

SPECIMENS TYPES THAT MAY POTENTIALLY TRANSMIT A HIGH RISK PATHOGEN (including Prion)

- Brain tissue, eye fluids, spinal cord tissue
- CSF
- Tissues from kidney, liver, lung, lymph nodes, spleen or placenta
- Sputums, ET aspirates, BAL
- Blood

Infectivity Level for Prion Disease (Only)	Tissue / Specimen Type
High	Brain, spinal cord, eye, pituitary gland
Low	Kidney, liver, lung, lymph node / spleen, placenta, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF)
No known risk	Heart, skeletal muscle, peripheral nerves, adipose tissue, gingival tissue, intestine, adrenal gland, thyroid, prostate, tears, sweat, sputum, stool, urine, semen, breast milk, blood

GENERAL PROTOCOL

- Upon admission or diagnosis that a patient is suspected or known with a high-risk pathogen, the hospital care manager, house RN supervisor, or infection control will be notified.
- The lab including Microbiology will be notified by those individuals, the provider or nursing staff that samples may or have been obtained from the patient with a suspected disease.
- The Environmental Services department will be notified to deliver a special double lined waste disposal container to the lab for disposal of all specimens and infectious waste.
- PPE, including masks or face shield, goggles and disposable gown will be worn at all times when testing and disposing of these samples.
- Gloves are required and must be discarded after one use, setting up cultures or aliquoting specimens. Be careful to not touch surfaces that are not necessary for testing the specimen.
- All pipettes, slides or coverslips must be soaked in 10% Bleach for 1 hour prior to discard.
- When all specimens and materials have been put into the special container provided, the manager or tech in charge will notify Environmental services to pick up the container for disposal.

MICROBIOLOGY PROTOCOL

- PPE will consist of eye goggles or shield, gloves, mask and disposable gown.
- Gloves must be used once and disposed of in the special container provided.
- Only use a biological hood for setting up cultures. Preferably the virology hood.
- Plate specimen per department protocol, clean off plates with 10% bleach after inoculation to reduce any transmission of the disease.
- Use only disposable pipettes or loop streakers. Soak in 10% bleach for one hour prior to discarding.
- If a tissue grinder is used, **use with extreme caution**, only process under the virology hood, holding the grinder away from your body.
- Dispose of all supplies in the special container provided by Environmental Services.

SPECIMENS TO BE SENT TO THE STATE DOH

- Some specimens are sent directly to the Washington State Dept of Health lab for testing.
- Use certified mailers that consist of a hard-backed outer container, an inner container and special leak-proof packaging to hold the specimens.
- Consult the Shipping and Packaging manual located in Microbiology at SJMC. Consult with employees that have taken the Shipping and Packaging class at the State Health Lab.

- The Washington State Epidemiologist must be called prior to sending any specimen to the state DOH lab