

**Date:** June 19, 2014  
**To:** South Zone Physicians  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services  
**Re:** CSF Testing in Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) or Prion Disease

---

**PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**

---

**Key Messages:****For Brooks/ Pincher Creek:**

- CSF samples will not be collected from known positive or suspect/at-risk TSE or Prion Disease patients.

**For CRH/MHRH:**

- CSF samples that are TSE or Prion Disease positive will be referred to the National Microbiology Laboratory for testing.
- An algorithm (see attached flow chart) has been developed for management of CSF samples from suspect and/or at risk TSE or Prion disease patients. A WBC count will be performed. Decisions for further testing will be dependent on the results from the WBC. (see attached flow chart).

**Why this is important:**

- Testing of these samples required enhanced containment (Level III) precautions for staff when processing.

**Action Required:**

- Laboratory must be notified prior to collection of CSF on a suspect and/or at risk TSE or Prion disease patient.
- Lab will provide sample container to be used to safely transport samples from the floor to the Lab.
- Pathologist will be notified by staff to assist with the management of the sample.

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Dr Barbara Popma
- Dr Michael O'Connor

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

- Dr Barbara Popma
- Dr Michael O'Connor

## JOB AID PRION PRECAUTIONS (LEVEL 3 CONTAINMENT) FOR CSF

