



Title	Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (including CJD)
Document Type	Policy
Version number	4.3
Approval/Issue date	December 2021
Review dated	December 2023
Approved by	Infection Control Committee
Owner/Person Responsible	Dr Edward James
Developed by	Infection Prevention Control Team
Reviewed by	Infection Prevention Control Team
Healthcare Inequality Impact Assessed	N/A- National guidance

TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHIES

1. Screening for possible CJD prior to surgery or endoscopy

The main implication for NHS Borders regarding Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies including CJD and vCJD is the screening of patients undergoing surgical procedures and endoscopy in order that the re-useable devices involved in the procedures are appropriately managed.

This screening is carried out by asking all patients about to undergo any elective or emergency surgical or endoscopic procedure:

“Have you ever been notified that you are at increased risk of CJD or vCJD for public health purposes?”

The appropriate action taken to the answer is given in annexe J of the UK TSE guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270735/Annex_J_Assessment_to_be_carried_out_before_surgery_and_or_endoscopy_to_identify_patients_with_or_at_risk_of_CJD_or_vCJD.pdf

2. Management of patients with possible or confirmed CJD

Further information and guidance on all aspects of managing patients together with specific advice for relevant specialties is given within the UK TSE guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-from-the-acdp-tse-risk-management-subgroup-formerly-tse-working-group>

Specific advice around Infection Control management is given with the UK TSE guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/427854/Infection_controlv3.0.pdf