



MEMORANDUM

Date: 7/11/2025
To: All requesters of Creutzfeldt-Jacob (CJD) testing through BCCDC
Re: Changes to CJD testing

Dear colleagues,

The BCCDC Public Health Laboratory oversees send-out testing to the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) for CJD testing. Currently, testing available at the NML for the diagnosis of CJD includes detection of surrogate protein markers (14-3-3 and tau) and the end-point quaking-induced conversion (EP-QuIC) assay.

On May 23, 2025, the NML announced that **effective August 1, 2025**, the 14-3-3 assay will be removed from their testing algorithm and the results of tau testing will no longer be routinely reported. Consequently, CJD testing will be limited to EP-QuIC with tau results available upon request. These changes are supported by data analyzed by the NML¹ and align with international diagnostic criteria for identification of probable CJD disease.^{2,3}

For further information regarding the CJD Test Panel offered by the NML, including specimen requirements and test performance, please visit the NML Prion Diseases Section website:
<https://cnphi.canada.ca/gts/laboratory/1025>

Recommendations for safe laboratory handling of low-risk specimens, including CSF, were updated in July 2024: <https://cnphi.canada.ca/gts/downloadFile?source=reqForm&id=15900&lang=en>
Processing of specimens for other investigations should not be delayed while awaiting CJD testing results; this may cause unnecessary delay in diagnosis and potentially compromise patient care.

For consultations regarding CJD testing results, please contact the BCCDC microbiologist on call by email (BCCDC_MicroOnCall@bccdc.ca) or phone (604-661-7033).

Thank you,

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References:

1. Slota JA, Myskiw J, Peterson A, et al. Diagnosis of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in Canada: An update on cerebrospinal fluid testing from 2016-2024. *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences / Journal Canadien des Sciences Neurologiques*. Published online 2025:1-23. doi:10.1017/cjn.2025.10088
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CJD Diagnostic Criteria. Updated 13 May, 2024. Accessed 13 June, 2025. <https://www.cdc.gov/creutzfeldt-jakob/hcp/clinical-overview/diagnosis.html>
3. Watson N, Hermann P, Ladogana A, et al. Validation of Revised International Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Network Diagnostic Criteria for Sporadic Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(1):e2146319. Published 2022 Jan 4. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.46319