

*From the Chief Medical Officer*  
Dr Michael McBride



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 1/2017

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HSS(MD) 1/2017

### **For Action**

Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Trusts,  
*(for onward cascade to relevant staff)*

Chief Executive Public Health Agency,  
*(for onward cascade to health protection staff)*

Chief Executive Health and Social Care Board  
*(for onward distribution to Director, Dental Services)*

Chief Executive, RQIA (for onward distribution to:  
Independent Hospitals)

Chief Executive of the NI Blood Transfusion Service  
*(for onward cascade to relevant staff)*

Dear Colleagues

## **UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PREVENTION OF CJD AND VCJD BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS' TRANSMISSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (ACDP TSE) SUBGROUP**

### **ACTION REQUIRED**

Chief Executives of Health and Social care Trusts should ensure this circular is brought to the attention of all staff concerned with surgery and the decontamination of surgical instruments.

The Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health agency should ensure this update is brought to the attention of the Director of Dental services and health protection staff.

The Chief Executive of RQIA should ensure this update is cascaded to all independent hospitals.

### **Summary**

1. This letter is to advise you of updated guidance from the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens' Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (ACDP TSE) Subgroup and how healthcare practitioners can access the latest guidance from ACDP TSE using the gov.uk website.

## Updated Guidance

2. I wish to advise you that the TSE Risk Management subgroup (formerly the TSE Working Group) of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) has updated the following guidance.

- Updated Annex F: Endoscopy, October & February 2015: Correction to a statement from the introductory section covering “Endoscopes currently in quarantine” and updated to reflect the latest scientific research. Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/470292/ACDP\\_TSE\\_Annex\\_F\\_Oct\\_2015.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/470292/ACDP_TSE_Annex_F_Oct_2015.pdf)

- Updated version of Annex A1: Distribution of TSE infectivity in human tissues and body fluids, July 2015. Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/444243/Annex\\_A1\\_update.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444243/Annex_A1_update.pdf)

- Updated Acknowledgements, July 2015. Available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/444245/Acknowledgements\\_page.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444245/Acknowledgements_page.pdf)

- Updated Annex C: General Principles of Decontamination and Waste Disposal, February 2015. Updated to reflect the latest scientific research

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/427855/Annex\\_C\\_v3.0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/427855/Annex_C_v3.0.pdf)

Please note that all ACDP guidance on TSEs can be downloaded from the gov.uk website at:

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

### 3. Keeping up to date with changes to the guidance

As the ACDP-TSE Subgroup guidance is continually being updated, to ensure that healthcare practitioners have immediate access to the most recent guidance, it is recommended that healthcare practitioners make arrangements to access the latest guidance using the announcement registration facility on the gov.uk website. This allows users to register to receive announcements on new publications and revisions to guidance such as guidance from the ACDP-TSE Subgroup. To subscribe to announcements, select Announcements at the bottom of the gov.uk webpage

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/announcements>) and use the filter list to select

your area of interest before selecting to receive announcements by email or by feed and complete the subscription process.

4. Should you have any queries on the information contained in the guidance, please contact Dr Naresh Chada on [naresh.chada@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:naresh.chada@health-ni.gov.uk) or on telephone number (028) 90522049.

Yours sincerely



**DR MICHAEL MCBRIDE**  
Chief Medical Officer

This letter is available on the Department of Health website at  
<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/professional-medical-and-environmental-health-advice/hssmd-letters-and-urgent-communications>

## **CIRCULATION LIST**

Executive Medical Director/Director of Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director of Public Health (Screening), Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director of Public Health (Service Development), Public Health Agency  
Assistant Director of Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency  
Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency  
Medical Directors, HSC Trusts  
Directors of Nursing, HSC Trusts  
Director of Integrated Care, HSCB  
Professor Patrick Johnston, Head of School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science, QUB  
Mr Keith Gardiner, Post Graduate Dean Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency  
Dr Claire Loughrey, Director of Postgraduate General Practice Education, NIMDTA  
Professor Hugh McKenna, Dean of Life and Health Sciences, University of Ulster  
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