Addendum to Sentinel Event Alert #20: Exposure to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

The Joint Commission would like to clarify the recommendations in Sentinel Event Alert #20: Exposure to Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) regarding the recommended practice of quarantining equipment:

To minimize the possibility of using neurosurgical instruments that have been potentially contaminated during procedures performed on patients in whom CJD is later diagnosed, health care facilities should consider using the specific evidence-based sterilization guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) ST79:2010 Annex C.

Recommended CJD resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/cjd/qa_cjd_infection_control.htm#reprocessed
