

From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Michael McBride



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN

**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MÄNNYSTRIE O

**Poustie, Resydènter Heisin
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HSS(MD) 51/2009

To: Chief Executives of HSC Trusts for distribution to:

- Medical Directors
- Consultants in Ophthalmology
- Directors of Infection Control
- Theatre Managers
- Risk managers
- Sterile Services managers
- Procurement Managers

Health & Social Care board for distribution to:

- Local Commissioning Groups

Chief Executive, RQIA for distribution to:

- Independent Hospitals

Chief Executive, Public Health Agency

**Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public
Health Agency for distribution to consultants in
communicable disease control**

Chief Executive, Business Support Organisation

Your Ref:

Our Ref: HSS(MD) 51/2009

Date: 10 November 2009

Dear Colleagues

NEW GUIDANCE FROM THE ACDP TSE WORKING GROUP - MANAGING CJD/VCJD IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

As part of its remit, the ACDP TSE Working Group produced the guidance document “Transmissible spongiform encephalopathy agents: safe working and the prevention of infection.” The aim of the guidance is the minimisation of the risk of transmission of CJD and vCJD. The current guidance was published in June 2003. The guidance has evolved in the years since, with new annexes being added and current guidance being updated as further scientific information becomes available, or new policy decisions need to be reflected.

NICE Guidance

In 2007, the Department endorsed the NICE Interventional Procedure Guidance 196 on the reduction of risk of transmission of CJD via interventional procedures and asked HSC Trusts providing neurosurgery and eye surgery to develop arrangements to implement this guidance. (See HSS(MD)12/2007 <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/hss-md-12-2007.pdf>)

