



Policy Name:  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DEATH CARE AND TRANSPORT OF BODY</b></p>	Policy Number:  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>0145</b></p>
Approved By: <p style="text-align: center;">Executive Team</p>	Effective Date:  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL 18, 2007</b></p>
Reason for Revision: <span style="color: gray;">Click on item below and select item from list.</span>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONTENT- Enter BELOW Reason for change Ex: Combined Policy ## and ##.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Updated template being used. Added reference Policy 0146</p>	Date Revised:  <p style="text-align: center;">January 19, 2022</p>  Next Date for Review:  <p style="text-align: center;">January 19, 2025</p>
Section: <p style="text-align: center;">Section 01 - Delivery of Care to Residents and Families</p>	Page No:  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Page 1 of 3</b></p>

## Policy

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Agapé Hospice will provide respect and dignity in the preparation of a deceased resident for viewing by the family. The resident will be prepared for transport to the funeral home by following all standards of Agapé Hospice and Alberta Health Services.

### **REQUIRED FORMS AND EQUIPMENT REFERENCES**

Notice of Death and Release of Body Form  
 Electronic forms location – FORMS  
 Hardcopy forms location – Work area file cabinet.

### **CROSS REFERENCES**

Policy 0135 Pronouncing Death by a Registered Nurse  
 Policy 0146 Resident's Belongings/Valuables

### **REFERENCES**

Alberta Health Services. Death, Care of Deceased Patients. (2009), D-1, Pg. 1-5

Province of Alberta, Order of Council 356/2008 – Public Health Act, Bodies of Deceased Persons Regulation



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## Procedure

1. **If the family is not present at the time of death, the Registered Nurse (RN) / Resident Attendant (RA) will prepare the resident in the following way before the arrival of the family:**
  - 1.1 Take all SC sites, catheters and patches off the Resident, unless body is going to be a Medical Examiners' case.
  - 1.2 If eyes are to be donated to the Lions Eye Bank, close the eyes and if necessary place gauze soaked in saline over the eyes. Elevate bed to semi fowlers.
  - 1.3 Make the Resident look presentable by placing hands together on top of the stomach, combing hair and straightening the blankets. Bathe and change body if necessary. Do not change to travel gown until family has viewed body.
  - 1.4 Put dentures in where applicable, or send with body when funeral home arrives.
  - 1.5 Do not remove any jewelry/belongings. Before body is transported to funeral home, all jewelry/belongings will be documented on the Notice of Death form: Document if jewelry taken by family or left on body. For other personal belongings, refer to Policy 0146.
  - 1.6 Lower head of bed when appropriate.
  - 1.7 Ensure Identification Band is on the Residents wrist. If the Resident has a communicable disease outlined under the Public Health Act (2001), a tag must be attached to the toe and any covering of the Resident labeled with the following:  
  
**"This body is infected with a communicable disease specified in the Bodies of Deceased Persons Regulation and must be transported with the precautions required by that Regulation"**  
  
**\*\*\* Discretion needs to be used by the RN as to timing of this labeling. The label only needs to be attached prior to Funeral home arriving. \*\*\***
  - 1.8 Take all unnecessary linen and garbage out of the room.
  - 1.9 Offer Comfort Cart to family.
  - 1.10 Put a rainbow on the door only if the family has been notified of the death.



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- 1.11 The RN needs to complete section A of the "Notice of Death and Release of Body Checklist".
2. **If the family is in the room at the time of death, the above should be done at the RN/RA's discretion based on the family wishes to allow family to grieve.**
3. **When the family feels they are ready to leave, the funeral home (or medical examiner's office if an autopsy is to be done) is to be notified.**
4. **The funeral home/medical examiner's office must sign Section B of the "Notice of Death and Release of Body" before they transport the body.**
5. **Nurse must document on progress notes the nursing care given and disposition of body to funeral home.**