



| | |
|--|--|
| Policy Name AUTOPSY (REQUESTED BY FAMILY) | Policy Number: 0175 |
| | Effective Date: June 3, 2008 |
| Approved By: Management | Date Revised: April 1, 2009 |
| Classification: Delivery of Care to Residents and Families | Page No: Page 1 of 3 |

POLICY

Procedures required when an autopsy is requested by a resident's family.

PROCEDURE

Prior to death

1. Notify the Vital Stats (Morgue) and the funeral home of the impending autopsy prior to the resident's death. Inform of Lion's Eye Bank involvement if the resident wishes eye donation.
2. Start preparing copy of chart. The most recent notes (up to the time of death at least two weeks worth of the resident's medical notes or if less than two weeks, then the entire chart) is required to be submitted at time of death.

After death

3. Call Vital Stats (Morgue) when the resident has died with the resident's information, including next of kin, marital status, date and time of death.
 - Business hours: Monday-Friday 0700-1500 hrs at 403-944-1689
 - After business hours or weekend at 403-944-1484.

Call Lion's Eye Bank before Vital Stats if eye donation is involved. The eye donation (enucleation) is done **before** the body is transferred.

4. Find ***"Consent for Autopsy" form in workstation file cabinet. Both sides of the form must be completed before transfer. If no forms are in the filing cabinet, contact Vital Stats. The form **MUST** be filled out by an immediate next of kin (the legal order of "who" can give consent for the autopsy is listed in "order of authority" on the consent form).
5. Obtain signatures from legal next of kin and witness (other family, friends, Agapé staff) only **after** death occurs. Pathology will not accept forms signed prior to the death. If the next of kin is not present, obtain telephone consent. Two hospice staff (i.e. RNs on duty) need to sign at the bottom of the consent form under section IV (Signatures) when telephone consent is obtained. Physician who signed under section V (Consultation Request) cannot sign consent in this case.
6. Backside of Consent for Autopsy form **MUST** be completed and signed by physician. This could be filled out prior to the resident's death.
7. Medical Certificate of Death must be completed by physician.



| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Policy Name AUTOPSY (REQUESTED BY FAMILY) | Policy Number: 0175 REVISED |
| | Page No: Page 2 of 3 |

8. Inform the funeral home of death when the resident has died and family is ready to release the body (when eye donation - enucleation is completed if eye donation is involved). Funeral home to be reminded that the person is going for autopsy. The funeral home will arrange the transportation between Agape and FMC. (Cost at McInnis and Holloway is \$ 250 in 2009).
9. Provide copy of chart, medication sheets, Medical Certificate of Death and the Consent for Autopsy form with body to FMC.
10. Leave all SC sites, drains, foley presently in body. Attach toe tag with the resident's information to the body before transferring. (Vital Stats requests as much information as possible: full name, hospice number, date of birth, address, health care number and attending physician.)
11. Autopsy cost is covered by Alberta Health Care.
12. Autopsy results are sent to the physician who signed consent.
13. Any questions concerning medical issues or autopsy results should be made directly to the Pathology office (Tel #: 403-944-4745).

** Consent of Autopsy form can be ordered from CHR Data Management department at 1-800-205-4589

CROSS REFERENCE

[Policy # 0176](#) [AUTOPSY REQUIRED BY LAW, PHYSICIAN, OR REQUESTED BY WCB](#)

[Policy # 0117a](#) [NOTICE OF DEATH AND RELEASE OF BODY](#)

[Policy # 0145](#) [DEATH CARE AND TRANSPORTATION OF BODY](#)



Policy Name

AUTOPSY (REQUESTED BY FAMILY)

Policy Number:

0175 REVISED

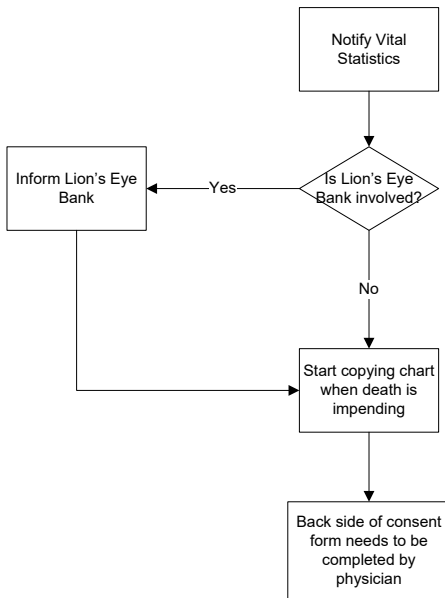
Page No:

Page 3 of 3

Autopsy: Family Request

Friday, March 27, 2009

Prior To Death



When Resident Passes Away

