



Policy Name AUTOPSY REQUIRED BY LAW, PHYSICIAN, OR REQUESTED BY WCB	Policy Number: 0176
	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

Alberta Law (*Alberta Fatality Inquiries Act*) requires, that in cases of unknown /unnatural death, an autopsy be performed in order to determine the medical cause of death. This includes death related to Pulmonary Fibrosis, Hepatitis C, Mesothelioma, and Asbestos. This policy is also applied when an autopsy is requested by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB).

PROCEDURE

Instruction for Autopsy/Biopsy at Medical Examiner's office (Specific disease related or requested by physician or WCB)

Prior to death

1. Nursing staff to notify Social worker to be notified if resident has:
 - disease is Pulmonary Fibrosis that is determined to be related to his/her occupation (i.e. the disease is caused by Asbestos) or trauma;
 - Hepatitis C;
 - Mesothelioma.
2. Physician to contact Medical Examiner's office prior to death when clarification is needed (i.e. when it is not clear if Pulmonary Fibrosis is idiopathic or if the cause of Hepatitis C is unnatural).
3. Notify Medical Examiner's office (403-297-8123: 24 hour number) and the funeral home of the impending autopsy prior to the resident's death. Inform them if the Lion's Eye Bank is involved and check with them if there are any restrictions if the resident desires eye donation.
4. Send medical information (i.e. How the diagnosis originated) to Medical Examiner's office when it is requested. Inquire if whole chart is required at time of death.
5. Social worker to help resident fill out "WCB Worker's Report" if the WCB claim has not been made and the resident wishes to do so.



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After death

6. Call Medical Examiner's office when the resident has died. Obtain permission to call Lions Eye Bank if eye donation is involved. Medical Examiner will need:
 - Resident's name;
 - Next of kin (legal, if wife is not, then children);
 - WCB claim number if applicable (not always necessary);
 - Medication list;
 - Summary of medical problem prepared by attending physician or Hospital summary;
 - Name of the funeral home.

THEY DO NOT NEED CONSENT FOR AUTOPSY FORM.

THEY DO NOT NEED DEATH CERTIFICATE. MEDICAL EXAMINER WILL SIGN.

7. Place toe tag with the resident's information (as much information as possible: full name, hospice number, date of birth, address, health care number and attending physician) to the body before transferring.
8. Leave all SC sites, drains, foley, if already on the body at the time of death.
9. Inform the funeral home of death. They are to be advised that the person is going for autopsy. The Medical Examiner's office will arrange the transportation. The eye donation (enucleation) is completed before the body is transferred, if Lion's Eye Bank is involved.

CROSS REFERENCE

[Policy # 0175 AUTOPSY REQUESTED BY FAMILY](#)

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

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



Policy Name

AUTOPSY REQUIRED BY LAW, PHYSICIAN, OR REQUESTED BY WCB

Policy Number:

0176 REVISED

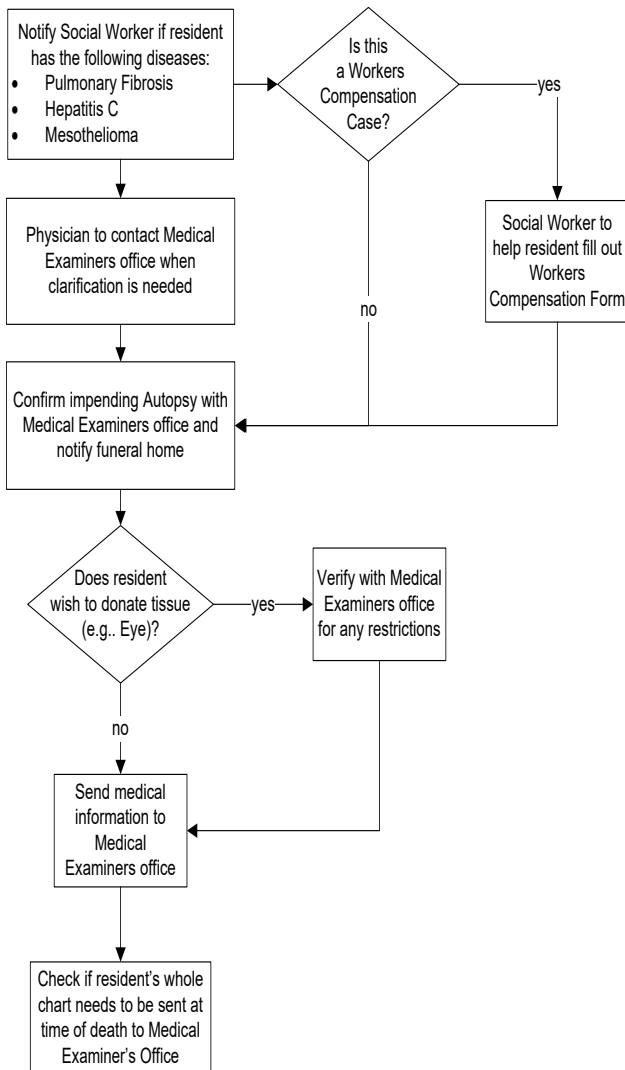
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Autopsy: Medical Examiners Case

Friday, March 27, 2009

Prior To Death



When Resident Passes Away

