



CONWAY MEDICAL CENTER

PROCEDURE

When in hard copy form, refer to Policy Manager to validate this as the most current revision.

TITLE:	LAB-SPC-HIS-09.04 Autopsy Protocol-PRO		
ISSUED BY:	Sr. Tech, Anatomic Pathology	REFERENCE #:	LAB-SPC-HIS-09.04-PRO
APPROVED BY:	Lab Director	EFFECTIVE DATE:	2006-02-09

SCOPE: Pathology and nursing staff involved with autopsies.

PROCEDURE:

I. CONSENT REQUIREMENTS WHEN AUTOPSY REQUESTED:

- A. Autopsy consent is required and it is the responsibility of the nursing staff to obtain. The pathology department will not perform autopsies without the consent.
- B. Cranial contents: When cranial content examination is requested this **MUST BE** noted specifically on the permission.

II. DESCRIPTION OF PATHOLOGIST PROCEDURE:

- A. Coronal incision is made behind one ear across the occiput to a point behind the contralateral ear.
- B. The hair is not shaved or otherwise disturbed.
- C. An examination of the thorax is made by a “Y” shaped incision running from one shoulder, beneath the breasts, to the contralateral shoulder.
- D. A vertical incision from the xiphoid to the pubis completes the incision.

III. HOSPITAL STAFF PROCEDURE

- A. All clothing shall be removed from the body.
- B. All tubing (catheters, drains, etc.) and dressing shall be left in place except for IV’s, which should be removed.
- C. ID bracelet left in place and checked for accuracy.
- D. Autopsy permit ,removal and transit permit and patient chart should be taken to the morgue with the body.
- E. Body: Placed on the autopsy table by the personnel who moved the body to the morgue.
- F. Notification: Attending physician must order the autopsy
 - 1. Normal Business Hours: Nursing staff should notify the Pathology Office (ext. 8124)
 - 2. After Business Hours: Notification should be made to the Pathologist on call.

NOTE: An autopsy is really a formal request by consultation, and therefore, it is suggested that the requesting physician communicate with the Pathologist before the examination is begun.

- G. Pathology staff will notify the charge nurse when the autopsy is complete.
- H. Charge nurse (supervisor) will be notified to release the body.



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IV. FACILITIES:

- A. CMC morgue is to be used for in handling deceased patients of the hospital only.
- B. Locked. The door to the morgue will be kept locked at all times and the “No Admittance” sign will be strictly enforced.
- C. Refrigeration is provided when indicated and should be used solely for the purpose morgue purposes.
- D. Refrigeration temperature monitoring is the responsibility of the hospital Maintenance department which monitors using TempTrax System.

V. FUNERAL HOME PROTOCOLS:

- A. The arterial injection may be completed by the embalmer at his facilities before the autopsy and the body returned to the morgue promptly.
NOTE: This option is not offered in special cases where toxicology or bacteriological study is indicated.
- B. The body may be picked up after the autopsy is completed.

RECORDS: NA

REFERENCE STANDARDS: CAP ANP.31000; ANP.31050; ANP.31070; ANP.31100; GEN.40000; GEN.40016; GEN.40050; GEN.40100

REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY:

Date	Affected Section(s)	Summary of Changes ('Reviewed' or details of change)
5-19-11 wr	None	Reviewed/revised-Saved electronically in the lab G drive.
11-15-11 wr	Format	Change in format for MCN.
3-29-13 wr	Format.	Reviewed. No content changes Newest format
6-11-14 va	None	Reviewed. No content changes.
3-16-15 va	None	Reviewed. No content changes.
3-23-17 va	None	Reviewed. No content changes.