



This policy states the general requirements for performance of an autopsy on a deceased USTUR Registrant.

Suitability is determined prior to ordering autopsy

Upon notification of the death or impending death of a Registrant, the Director, or other Registry staff member with authority to act, shall verify that the individual is a documented Registrant with valid Registry authorization on file to perform a routine or whole body autopsy, and that the case is technically suitable for autopsy. Autopsies shall not be authorized for persons known to be Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive, nor shall tissue donations from such persons be accepted by the Registries. Autopsies and tissue sampling may be done on Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) or Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) positive persons only if specifically authorized by the Director with the concurrence of the Medical Director or Consultant.

The legally responsible individual shall be advised if the Registry case is unsuitable for autopsy

As soon as practicable after the determination that a Registries case is unsuitable for autopsy or postmortem radiochemical analysis and hence will not be accepted by the Registries, the Registries shall notify the surviving spouse or other legally responsible individual of their decision.

Registries arrange for autopsy by qualified physician

Upon notification of the death of a Registrant, the responsible Registry staff member shall arrange for an autopsy to be performed by an independent physician legally and professionally qualified to perform postmortem examinations, according to the protocol provided by the Registries. A Board certified pathologist is preferred. The autopsy physician shall be provided with a copy of the routine or whole body autopsy authorization document as soon as practicable prior to the autopsy unless other legally valid arrangements have been made.

No autopsy shall be authorized without concurrence of the spouse or next-of-kin

Even where a valid premortem authority exists, no autopsy shall be conducted by the Registries if such examination is not desired by the surviving spouse or legally responsible next-of-kin. In such cases, the Registries shall immediately accede to the wishes of the family and cease further contact with respect to the performance of an autopsy.

Registries staff may assist at autopsy

If practicable and appropriate to the situation, Registries staff may provide assistance to the autopsy physician. Such assistance will normally consist of weighing and packaging for transport of tissue samples, and consulting as appropriate with respect to the autopsy protocol requirements.

The next-of-kin shall be given autopsy reports upon request

Provisional and/or final autopsy reports shall be promptly provided in a timely manner to the surviving spouse or next-of-kin upon written request to the Registries Director.

The Registries are responsible for autopsy payment

The Registries shall pay all reasonable and proper professionally billed costs associated with the performance of the autopsy and subsequent transmittal for radiochemical tissue analysis.

Bodies are returned to next-of-kin following autopsy

Except for whole body donations for which legally valid donor documentation exists and that have been accepted by the Registries, bodies shall be released to the next-of-kin as soon as practicable after the autopsy has been completed. The Registries are not responsible for payment for final disposition of remains.