LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

POST-MORTEM CARE

Purpose:

To provide guidelines for appropriate care of the body, notification of the family/significant other, and coroner notification as appropriate, following death.

Policy:

1. In-Patient Unit

   When a patient expires on an in-patient unit, nursing personnel shall be responsible for ensuring that post-mortem care is properly completed (see Nursing Policy P-60 POST-MORTEM CARE).

2. Ancillary Departments

   If a patient expires in an ancillary department, the unit or clinic that the patient was admitted to will send staff to the ancillary department to prepare the body for delivery to the morgue. The body will remain in the ancillary department until readied for transport to the morgue.

   a. Staff in the ancillary department should provide assistance to the nursing staff during the preparation of the body as needed.

   b. If there is family on the unit of origination, the family should be escorted to the ancillary department (accompanied by a nursing staff manager), if they wish to view the body before it is transported to the morgue. Privacy should be afforded the deceased and the family member. Ancillary staff shall be supportive of the grieving family as necessary and be aware that the readying and viewing of the body may take time, so the room may not be available for use for 1 – 1 ½ hours.

3. OR, PACU, ECC or Outpatient (Clinics)

   If the patient expires in the Operating Room, Post Anesthesia Care Unit, Emergency Care Center or Outpatient Clinic, these
departments will prepare the body as needed for family viewing and transport to the morgue.

4. The Administrative House Manager shall be notified of all deaths.

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Administrator

4/21/04
Date

Approved by Clinical Board: 4/20/04
Written: 3/04
Revised: 3/04