

PROVINCIAL REGISTRATION STANDARD FOR AUTOPSY SERVICES

Approved by the
Provincial Health Information Management Leadership Committee
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EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Background

Over time, the regional health authorities have adopted inconsistent registration practices related to autopsy services. These practices cause difficulty in managing the health record of the deceased person at the regional level as well as impact provincial information systems such as the provincial electronic health record.

Purpose

This standard has been developed to promote consistency in registration processes related to autopsy to ensure accuracy and completeness of the local health record while minimizing negative impacts on the quality of data exchanged with provincial information systems.

Scope

This standard does NOT apply to forensic autopsies. The findings of forensic autopsies are usually documented external to the local Meditech system, as per the direction of the Medical Examiner.

In addition, this standard does NOT apply to bodies brought directly to the morgue that have already been pronounced and for whom no further intervention services are required; such bodies should not be registered.

Registration Requirements of Related to Autopsy Services

- In the case of bodies brought to hospital (usually to the Emergency Department) **for pronouncement**, the decedent should be registered in the ADT module of the hospital information system with an ER account. The ER account should be used to attach diagnostic testing and results.

If a person dies post CPR or other treatment in the Emergency Department and is pronounced dead, diagnostic imaging and laboratory testing done after death for autopsy purposes should be attached to the ER account.

- In the case of bodies dead on arrival (DOA) to the health care facility that **have already been pronounced** but require further diagnostic interventions, registration is required as follows:
 - If only diagnostic imaging (DI) services are needed, register the body in the Admissions (ADM) module as a DI Referred registration with a location of Autopsy. The service date/time of the account must be the same as the date/time of death.

- If only laboratory autopsy services are needed, register the body in the Laboratory module in Lab Census with a designated location as specified by the regional health authority.
- If both diagnostic imaging and laboratory autopsy services are needed, register the body in both the Radiology/Diagnostic Imaging and Laboratory modules of the hospital information system as noted above.
- Autopsy services conducted and documented after the death of a registered inpatient should be attached to the inpatient registration only when the autopsy is performed within the same facility. When a body is sent to another facility for autopsy, it should be considered a DOA and registered as per the directions above.

Questions regarding this standard can be directed to:

Clinical Standards and Information
Data Quality and Standards Division
Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information
Telephone: 752-6000
E-mail: csi@nlchi.nl.ca

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