AUTOPSIES AND POST MORTEMS 124

POLICY:

Since the facility routinely transfers all critically ill patients to local hospitals or facilities, there shall be no autopsies performed on the premises.

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 POSTMORTEM CARE 124

PURPOSE:

To prepare the body, after death, for the undertaker.

EQUIPMENT:

1. Wash basin and soap

2. Wash cloth

3. Towel

4. Bed linens as needed

5. Dentures

6. Crash Cart if needed

PROCEDURE:

1. Summary of procedure when death is first suspected:

a. Assess patient.

b. Initiate emergency care, CPR if necessary, as deemed per patient's Advance Directives and notify emergency services (911), then notify physician.

c. If patient is a DNR, notify the physician.

d. Notify the coroner who will come to the facility or give instructions over the phone.

e. Notify the family or designated emergency contact.

f. Notify mortuary of patient's choice or local mortuary when consent has been given by coroner to release the body.

2. Body should not be disturbed until death has been verified by the physician or order obtained to release body.

3. Lower head, leave one pillow under the head.

4. Close eyes, restore dentures and close mouth.

5. Bathe body, if necessary. Comb hair.

6. Place a folded towel under the chin to prop head in position until death process stiffens the features.

7'. Remove: drainage tubes, adhesive marks from skin with solvent, dressings, appliances, rings and/or jewelry.

8. Close draining wounds with adhesive,

9. Straighten extremities, place arms at sides. Most undertakers prefer that the body be handled as little as possible except to see that it is clean.

10. If dentures are not placed in the mouth, they should be placed in a valuables envelope, with eyeglasses, and given to the undertaker. Get signature of undertaker for valuables, dentures, etc.

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 POSTMORTEM CARE (Cont.) 124

11. Clean and care for complete unit after removal of body.

12. Post-mortem care given.

13. Time body removed from premises

14. Disposal of valuables and clothing.

CHARTING:

1. Time respirations apparently ceased.

2. Time releasing body, who released to, and by whom pronounced dead, or time and order of physician.

3. Member of family notified, by whom, and time.

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