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| POSTMORTEM CARE | | | | NO. 124 | |
| PURPOSE:  To prepare the body, after death, for the funeral director once physician, family and coroner have been  notified.  EQUIPMENT:   1. Wash basin and soap 2. Wash clothes 3. Towels 4. Bed linens as needed 5. Envelope for personal effects or any equipment needed for removal of special devices   PROCEDURE:   1. Summary of procedure when death is first suspected:    1. Notify the coroner who will come to the facility or give instructions over the phone.    2. Notify the family or designated emergency contact.    3. 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   the body.   1. Lower head, leave one pillow under the head. 2. Close eyes, restore dentures and close mouth. 3. Bathe body, if necessary. Comb hair. 4. Place a folded towel under the chin if necessary to prop head in position. 5. Remove: drainage tubes, adhesive marks from skin with solvent, dressings, appliances, rings and/or jewelry. Do not remove NC if on oxygen or endotrachealintubation tube if one in place. 6. Close draining wounds with adhesive. 7. 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. 8. 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.   CHARTING:   1. Time physician notified of the absence of pulse/respiratory. 2. Member of family notified, by whom, and time. 3. Time coroner notified and any special instructions. 4. Post mortem care given. 5. Notification of funeral home. 6. Time of removal of body. 7. List of valuables and personal effects and whom released to. | | | | | |
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