



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

OPERATING ROOM

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTATION RELATED TO A DEATH IN THE OPERATING ROOM

Policy No.: OR 012

Revision Date: 10/2018

Supersedes: ALL

Page: 1 OF 2

PURPOSES OF THE PROCEDURE:

1. To ensure complete records concerning a patient's death.
2. To ensure that all concerned persons and/or departments are notified in a timely fashion.
3. To provide a mechanism for the release of the body after proper consent has been obtained.

PHYSICIAN'S ORDER REQUIRED: No

PERFORMED BY: RN, MD

PROCEDURAL STEPS:

1. In the case of a patient death during an operative procedure, notify the following:

A. Clinical Director (X 56886) or Administrative Nursing Supervisor (X 56211) after 1530 or on weekends/holidays

B. Administrative Officer of the Day (through Hospital Operator)

C. Risk Management (X 57842)

D. The Charge Nurse on the patient's assigned unit

Key Point: This is done to ensure personal effects are properly handled.

E. The Office of Decedent Affairs (X 57125)

F. Centralized Admission and Referral Office [CARO] (X 57041)

Key Point: This notification must be done within 1 hour of death.

G. Laboratory/Pathology (X 58994)

Key Point: To arrange for Pathology Technician to pick up the deceased.

H. Coroner's Office (323) 343-0711

Key Point: This is the responsibility of the Physician. Each death must be reported and the Coroner's office handles each death individually.

I. Family or designated person

Key Point: This is the responsibility of the Physician.

J. Notify Organ Donation: One Legacy (800) 338-6112

Key Point: This notification must be done within 1 hour of death.

Reviewed by: Jo-Ann Abesamis BSN, RN,CNOR.

Reference:

AORN. (2020). Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. Denver, CO: AORN.

Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

Reviewed -02/16

Revised -10/18

Reviewed -07/21