

## HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

<b>SUBJECT:</b> II-119 DEATH OF PATIENT	<b>POLICY #:</b> 1398
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Aram. Messerlian (CHIEF PHYSICIAN I ANESTHESIOLOGY), Beryl Brooks (ADMR, COMP AMB HEALTH CARE CENTER), Leila Adriano (NURSE MANAGER)	
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b> 09/15/2017	

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidelines in the event of a patient's death in the Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC).

**POLICY:** All ASC deaths will be handled as a coroner's case, and the following procedure will be implemented.

### PROCEDURE:

1. The coroner will be called before the body is removed from the ASC. The coroner's telephone number is placed on [Form #18](#) (see forms included with instructions). Only the coroner can release the body.
2. The attending physician or anesthesiologist, in the absence of the attending physician, completes the Coroner's case form.
3. Notice of Patient's death form is completed by the nurse and sent to Health Information Management (HIM) Department with patient's chart as soon as possible.
4. Certificate of Death form is generated in the HIM Department when the chart and Notice of Patient's Death form are received. The physician will sign the completed form.
5. All medical devices and lines are left in place; tubing may be cut and tied. Document the event in Nursing and Anesthesia records.
6. The body is transferred to the Post Anesthesia Care Unit or vacant Operating Room (OR) within the ASC, covered and secluded, until release by Coroner.
7. If death occurs in an OR, do not use the room/equipment for other cases until all anesthesia equipment has been checked for safety, even if equipment is not thought to be a possible cause of death.
8. A report is entered into the SI.

<b>Original Date:</b> 07/03/2003
<b>Reviewed:</b> 09/15/2017
<b>Next Review Date:</b> 09/15/2020
<b>Previous Review Dates:</b> 04/08/09; 06/18/13;
<b>Previous Revise Dates:</b> 02/20/04; 04/08/09; 07/09/13; 07/13/17