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| **Charleston County Coroner’s Office Policy #56** |
| **Title:** RandoxEvidence Multistat **Page:** 1 of 3 |
| **Effective Date:** 3/4/2024  **Authorized By:** Bobbi Jo O’Neal, Coroner |

56.1 POLICY

1. The Coroner’s Office owns a Randox Evidence Multistat (Randox) which is a fully automated desktop sized toxicology profile screening machine. The Randox will only be operated by trained staff members at the discretion of the Case Deputy, Chief Deputy or the Coroner to facilitate detection of up to 21 classical, prescription and synthetic drugs from a single sample as part of a death investigation.
2. The Supervisor of Forensic Services will be the primary contact person for the Randox and shall oversee the use, care, and maintenance in accordance with this policy. The Randox will be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations.
3. The Randox shall be kept in a secured and restricted access area.

56.2 SAMPLE SCREENING PROTOCOL

Deputies shall ensure that decedents are screened with the Randox where the case meets at least one the following screening protocol:

1. Cases where drugs or paraphernalia are found on the scene.
2. Cases where the decedent has a current or past drug history.
3. Decedents with heavy lungs, excess urine, or hardened stool found at autopsy regardless of suspected manner.
4. The decedent had a positive drug screen at the hospital.
5. Or at the discretion of the Case Deputy, Chief Deputy, or the Coroner.

56.3 CONSUMABLE KITS

A “consumable kit” is comprised of perishable apparati which facilitates the testing of samples in the Randox. Upon receipt of a shipment of consumable kits, the Supervisor of Forensic Services shall visually inspect the contents of each shipment to ensure that the packaging is not damaged, and that the expiration date is such that the kit will be consumed before expiration. If not, the vendor shall be notified that the kits are unacceptable.

56.4 RANDOX TESTING PROCEDURES

1. Detailed Randox analysis procedures are contained in the Randox Operator Guide provided by the manufacturer and shall be available to trained staff.
2. A centrifuge tube will be collected at autopsy with a minimum of 3.5 mL to a maximum of 4.0 mL of blood, preferably from the same anatomic location as blood collected for full laboratory testing.
3. If hospital blood is available or if the centrifuge tube was not collected at autopsy, blood from a purple top tube may be poured off and spun down to run on Randox.
4. Toxicology samples will be sent to the contracted laboratory for confirmatory testing on cases that are run on Randox regardless of results.
5. If the decedent has an extensive medical history and no indication of drug use or there are strong objections to an autopsy by the family due to religious or other reasons, Randox results, if completely negative, may be used to support a ‘no autopsy’ decision at the discretion of the Case Deputy. However, samples for the contracted laboratory should still be collected and stored should laboratory testing be deemed necessary before case closure.
6. At the discretion of the Case Deputy, notification shall be made to next-of-kin and the co-investigating agency, if applicable, of any testing results.
7. The Supervisor of Forensic Services shall keep a log recording the use of the Randox and any statistics as directed by the Coroner.
8. The testing results document shall be uploaded to the case file/documents.

56.5 TRAINING PROCEDURES

1. The Supervisor of Forensic Services is responsible for scheduling, coordinating, and overseeing training for the autopsy staff in the use of the Randox. All personnel who successfully complete the training shall be included in a training completion log.
2. The training shall be in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidelines.
3. Supporting training documentation shall be maintained and available for review.