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| Policy: Medications, and Illicit Drugs at Death Scene. | **Union County Coroner Office** |

**Policy:** Investigators shall include a complete list of prescription (Rx) medications of all deceased persons within the jurisdiction of the Union County Coroner Office when submitting death investigation reports. Reasonable efforts to identify and corroborate prescribed medications are part of a comprehensive death scene investigation

If illicit drugs are found at the scene, photographs should be obtained and the samples either released to law enforcement (with appropriate documentation) or sent with the body with a note in the Autopsy request form.

Collect information pertaining to all medications prescribed to a decedent. Pill counts of partial containers should be conducted when appropriate for the circumstances of the death.

Information to include in the Medication Log:

* + - Name of medication
    - Rx number
    - Date of prescription
    - Prescribed to
    - Physician name
    - Name of pharmacy
    - Dose instructions
    - Quantity prescribed
    - Amount of medication remaining
    - Collect representative sample if identity of medication is unknown or in question and place representative pill/substance in a baggie or appropriate container. Seal the container and indicate information which may be of use in identifying the pill on the outside of the sealed container.

Document the disposition of unused medications in the narrative report of the Investigative Notes i.e., turned over to law enforcement, left at scene, etc. Advise presiding law enforcement at scene that Schedule II-V prescription drugs are present and may present a public safety hazard if not removed from the scene.

Identify/verify medications and intended use by using the Pill Identifier web based application