



DEATHS AFTER MEDICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Policy# 20-0212-1 **Total pages=** 2

Purpose: Guidelines for death investigation following medical intervention that may involve invasive procedures.

Justification: To ensure that a complete investigation is made into deaths that occur following medical intervention that may include an invasive procedure.

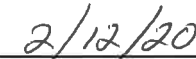
Policy:

1. The investigator will follow all policies, procedures and guidelines for all death investigations.
2. Medical intervention involves any and all care provided by a medical professional.
3. An invasive procedure may include but not limited to surgeries and/or diagnostic procedures that include but not limited to colostomies.
4. The investigator will consider the following when evaluating the need for an autopsy:
 - a. The known risk factors for sudden death that may be increased with stress of an invasive procedure such as advanced age, heart disease, respiratory disease or other known medical conditions.
 - b. The severity of the condition prior to the procedure that may make the patient high risk.
 - c. Elective vs Emergent procedure.
 - d. Evidence or suspected medical misfortune.
 - e. Concerns of family and/or treatment facility/agency
5. If it is determined that an autopsy is not necessary to determine the Cause and Manner of Death; but, questions/concerns are unanswered as to the exact sequence of events that lead to the death, then the investigator will:
 - a. Place a hold on the body and any lab specimens that may be needed
 - b. Discuss the findings with the coroner
 - c. Advise the attending physician/professional that an autopsy will not be performed by our office

- d. Discuss the consideration of a medical autopsy with treatment facility and/or the family

This policy/procedural guide has been approved and is in effect until further notice:


Benjamin Trotter, DO, Coroner


Date