



Medication Collection and Disposal Policy

Policy# 12-0727-2 Medication Collection and Disposal Policy Total Pages= 2

Purpose: To have a standardized policy concerning the collection, documentation and the disposal of medications that are found at a death scene.

Justification: To allow for medications that are found at a death scene to assist in the death investigation and/or to be properly disposed and to prevent diversion of the medications.

Policy:

1. When investigating a death in which medications are found either prescribed to or found on the deceased and/or in any way connected to the death, all medications need to be documented as to the following:
 - a. medication name
 - b. date prescribed
 - c. prescribing physician
 - d. numbers of pills/amount prescribed
 - e. number of pills/amount remaining
2. All medications prescribed to or unmarked must be handed to law enforcement to collect and dispose of as per their disposal policy; unless circumstances require such medications be held for further investigation.
3. When medications are found at a death scene that we do not respond to, we are to request the law enforcement officer in charge to take control of the deceased's medications.
4. If medication/s cannot be identified and the medication/s may play a role in the cause of the death then such medication/s will be documented and placed in appropriate sealed/signed container to be analyzed at a later time.

5. After the medications have been documented and are no longer needed to be part of the death investigation then all medications will be disposed of as soon as feasibly possible and when able to be witnessed by either another representative of the coroner's office or law enforcement. (The disposal needs to be documented on the Disposal of Medications Form that is attached to/part of this policy.)

6. At no time will we maintain control of any known illegal substance that is found on the deceased or in any way connected to the deceased, i.e., cocaine, etc. All known illegal non-prescription drugs shall be turned over to the law enforcement.

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



Benjamin Totter, DO, Coroner



Date