

Infant or Child Autopsy Protocol

Station Preparation for Autopsy

- Formalin containers, 1 of each
 - -Clear container for stock tissue
 - -NW pathology container for histology
- 6 cassettes labeled with case number A-F (case number_ A)
- 2 grey top tubes (blood)
- 1 non-expired red top tube (vitreous humor)
- If needed, 1 red top tube for urine (cases with toxicology concerns)
- DNA envelope and filter paper
- Metabolic screening card (fill in necessary blanks)
 - Add blood spots to designated area on card (at examination)
- (2) 5 mL syringes with needles for specimen draws
- Necessary tools including scalpel holder and blades, forceps, scissors, bone saw, dura strippers, T-bar, hemostats, rulers with case number labels, all necessary specimen labels.
- Small bucket with red biohazard bag inside
- Specimen bag for coroner retained specimens
- Large Inkpad with 2 large index cards for footprints and handprints

Prior to Autopsy

- Get x-rays of child
 - -full body (includes arms/hands and legs/feet) all in one shot
 - -head only
 - -verify with on-call supervisor if need any additional x-rays
- Required Photos
 - Case placard
 - Body Bag with name
 - Seal number (if used)
 - Entire body as is (straight down view)
 - Anterior and posterior
 - Hands (dorsal and ventral surfaces) using grey board
 - Bottoms of feet
 - Ankle band
- Remove medical therapy and clothing
 - Photograph all clothing separately using a grey board (both sides)
 - Take close ups of any defects in clothing
 - Document all clothing in MDI (property/evidence tab)
- Take unclear photos of important marks or wounds prior to cleaning
- Clean up infant and photograph cleaned up face straight on with blue towels.
- Required Photos
 - Entire body (supine) straight down
 - Torso
- Lower half
- Right and left lateral sides of entire body
- Eyes open and palpebral conjunctivae. Document petechial hemorrhages or lack of
- Up the nares and in the mouth

Infant or Child Autopsy Protocol cont.

- Areas of interest (refer to pathologist) with and without measuring device
 - Trauma
 - Blood staining/spatter
 - Purge or foam
 - Puncture marks
- Photograph all marks and identifying scars (use grey board or blue towel for background)
- Photograph and document any property left on the body
 - Enter property in the property tab in MDI log
 - Place property in property bag with case # and name.
 - Put property in secured caged locker
 - Affix green or yellow tag labeled "property in lock box" to body pouch.
- **Refer to pathologist for additional photographs before starting internal examination**
- Take handprints and footprints (x2)
 - 1 for parents
 - 1 for case file
- Take Measurements, **infants only** (use inches and centimeters)
 - Crown to Rump
 - Crown to Heal
 - Head circumference (occipital-frontal circumference)
 - Chest circumference (at level of nipples)
 - Abdominal circumference (level of umbilicus)
 - Foot length
- Obtain weight of infant using the appropriate scale. If not an infant, then use floor scale to obtain weight.

Autopsy

- Take child out from cooler and place on autopsy table
- Photos
 - Photograph the chest reflected with chest plate intact
 - Photograph chest with chest plate removed
 - Photograph scalp reflected before opening the head
 - Photograph brain before removal
 - Photograph any other findings of interest per the pathologist
- Collect samples and place in appropriate tubes/containers. Make sure each sample is labeled correctly
- Write all organ weights and additional findings onto white board
- Clean up and suture infant. Place in body bag and into cooler for release
- Take picture of the white board after autopsy is finished
 - Make sure case number, infant name, start date/ time and finish date/time are written on the board along with the names of those attending the examination/assisting.
- If there are any requested memorial keepsakes for the family (hair, hand or foot prints), make sure that they are packaged in a separate clear bag for the family and released to the funeral home after autopsy.
 - Refer to designated infant keepsake supplies

Infant or Child Autopsy Protocol cont.

After Autopsy

- Update Coroner with examination findings and cause and manner of death
- Verify all samples are labeled and individually heat sealed. Select the samples needed to be sent out for testing and place in designated bin.
- Put remaining samples into clear specimen bag (labeled) into freezer
- Complete the *Samples Collected Inventory List* in toxicology prep area
- Clean up autopsy station including floor and any other equipment used
- Set up autopsy station for standard autopsy
- Download all photos from autopsy to the Coroner Shared folder (label: case#_autopsy).
- Transfer photos into MDI log (under *autopsy*)
- Add weights, samples collected, UDS results, findings, and cause and manner of death in the *Autopsy* section in MDI log
- Complete date and time ready for release in *Case Administration* section
- Contact family and inform them of findings, cause and manner of death, and confirm funeral home selection
 - Make note in case notes of phone call
- Contact funeral home for release
 - Make note in case notes
- If needed- prepare and complete requisition forms for Avero (histology cassettes), UW (vitreous testing), PHL or UW (respiratory swabs) and Metabolic Screening Card. **All samples should go out same day when possible.**
- Verify case number is on toxicology tracking white board with asterisk
- Scan in any documents including prints, toxicology requisition form, various laboratory requisition forms, body diagram, etc.
- Make sure all forms and case report are printed off and in case file.
- Place case file in follow-up bin