

## Regional Pathology Services/Pathology Medical Services

### Autopsy Procedure

- When an Autopsy is requested the mortician will bring the deceased to The Nebraska Medical Center (TNMC).
- Mortician
  - The mortician will make two calls:
    - Will call the morgue at 402.552.3379
      - During business hours 8-5 M-F a pathology associate (PA) will be available.
      - After hours, weekends, and holidays the mortician will leave a voice message. The PA will check the voice mail in the morning. No follow-up will be needed.
    - Will call security at 402.559.5111. Security will direct the mortician on where to take the deceased.
  - The deceased will be identified by an armband that must include the patients name, date of birth, and hospital MRN
  - Delivery of the Deceased
    - If the deceased and all paperwork is delivered M-F the mortician must arrive by 2pm for the autopsy to take place that day, otherwise the autopsy will be performed the following day.
    - If the deceased is delivered on a Saturday the mortician must arrive with the deceased by 11:00 am for the autopsy to take place that day, otherwise the autopsy will be performed the following day.
    - If the deceased is delivered on a Sunday or Holiday the mortician must arrive with the deceased by 08:00 am for the autopsy to take place that day, otherwise the autopsy will be performed the following day.
  - The Autopsy will take up to 4 hours, but can't begin until all of the appropriate paperwork is received, the deceased will not be released to the mortician until the autopsy is complete, no exceptions.

- Paperwork:
  - The following forms, *see attachment*, must be filled out and faxed to TNMC Morgue (402.559.3727) and Regional Pathology Services (402.559.9497).
    - Authorization for Autopsy and Final Disposition of Deceased Patients
    - Legal Next of Kin Worksheet
    - Funeral Home Information Form
    - Clinical Information for Autopsy
  - The Chart and originals of the forms will accompany the body, if available.
  - If unavailable, the Chart will be faxed promptly to the TNMC Morgue at 402.559.3727
    - Note: Electronic access to patient charts will be granted within two weeks.
- Results
  - Once the deceased and all paperwork have been received by TNMC the autopsy will be performed.
    - Results:
      - Preliminary results: two business days.
      - Final results: 60 business days.

### **Important Numbers:**

Regional Pathology Services: (p) 402.559.6420 (f) 402.559.9497 (pg) 402.888.2086

TNMC Morgue: (p) 402.552.3379 (f) 402.559.3727

Security: (p) 402.559.5111

Resident on call pager: (pg) 402.888.1380

Pathology Medical Services in Lincoln: (p) 402.465.1900