



Policy # & Policy Title: CC.02.004 Pronouncement of Death, Post Mortem Care
Effective Date: 11/14/2012

Policy:

It is the policy of F.F. Thompson Hospital and Continuing Care Center to facilitate the expedient pronouncement and timely, respectful transport of bodies to the morgue.

In accordance with New York State Department of Health Rules and Regulations 10NYCRR 400.16, it is the policy of F.F. Thompson Hospital to provide physicians with a guideline for determination of death.

In accordance with the rules, an individual is dead when that individual has sustained either/or:

- Irreversible cessation of respiratory and circulatory functions.
- Irreversible cessation of all function of the entire brain, including the brain stem.

This policy shall include:

- A procedure for the notification of the individual's next-of-kin or other person closest to the individual.
- A procedure for the reasonable accommodation of the individual's religious or moral objection to the determination as expressed by the individual, or by the next-of-kin or other person closest to the individual.
- A description of the tests to be employed in making the determination.

Death shall be deemed to have occurred as of the time of the completion of the determination of death.

Supporting Procedures:

- CC.02.004.01 Pronouncement of Death
- CC.02.004.02 Post Mortem Care
- CC.02.004.03 Autopsies
- CC.02.004.04 Sign In and Release of Body
- CC.02.004.05 Coroner's Case
- CC.02.004.07 Fetal Deaths, Still Borns in the Emergency Department
- CC.02.004.08 Identification of Bodies in Morgue

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References:

Committee Review: Clinical Practice Council

Joint Commission: N/A

NYSDOH: DOH NYCRR 400.16

Other References: Education Law of New York State, Title VIII, Article 139, Section 6902.

Policy #LR.05.011: "Organ, Tissue and Full Body Donation."

Policy #CC.02.004.04: "Release of Body."

New York State Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 400.16.

New York State Nurses Association, Council on Nursing Practice, "Opinion on the Role of the Professional Nurse Re: Pronouncement of Death."

Policy #LS.03.002.08: "Valuables."

Public Health Law of New York State, Article 43, Section 4306.2, 1986.

Review Cycle: 12 Months

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Policy's Dept.: 03.900 - Administration

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Applies To: System

Department List: All

Approved By: Carlos Ortiz (Senior VP of Medical Services), Dona Rickard (SVP Senior Living Services), Hazel Robertshaw (VP, Patient Care Services & CNO), Sue Picchi (Legal & Compliance Administrator)