

PROTOCOL FOR: Fetal Demise in the JDH Operating Room

- POLICY:
1. The attending physician is responsible for completing and submitting all paperwork, which is available at the OR Front Desk.
 2. A *Certificate of Fetal Death* (blue) and a *Permission for Body Release* form must be completed for fetal deaths over 20 weeks gestational age; both forms must accompany the fetus to the morgue. This applies to elective terminations of pregnancy as well as still births, so long as the fetus is at least 20 weeks.
 3. If the fetus breathes spontaneously but expires, a *Certificate of Live Birth* (plain white), a *Certificate of Death* (pink), and a *Medical Examiner's Form* must be completed. Both Certificates must be filled out and sent with the fetus to the morgue. The Medical Examiner's office will assign a case #, even if they decline the case; the form must be completed with brief details of the case and then also forwarded to the morgue.
 4. If the fetus is viable (e.g. Caesarean section infants delivered in the OR) and is transferred to the NICU or Newborn Nursery, a *Certificate of Live Birth* must be completed. MFICU nurse will assist, if needed: call X3360.
 5. If a funeral is planned despite the fetus being less than 20 weeks gestational age, a *Certificate of Fetal Death* and a *Permission for Body Release* form must be filled out and sent to the morgue with the fetus.
 6. If a funeral is not requested and the fetus is under 20 weeks gestational age, the remains may be treated as any other surgical specimen.
 7. Parents may request mementos, i.e., footprints, baby tags, lock of hair. MFICU nurse will assist, if needed: call X3360.
 8. Parents may request an autopsy. If an autopsy is requested, the attending physician must obtain written permission from the parents on a *PostMortem "Autopsy" Permission Form*. This form must contain signatures of the physician, a witness, and the parent(s); it may be done by phone so long as this is documented clearly.
 9. Direct any questions to the Department of Anatomic Pathology.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee -

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/00

REVISION DATE: 1/08, 11/08