

SFHHCS16

Reconstruct the deceased following pathological examination



Overview

This standard relates to the reconstruction of the deceased following completion of post mortem examinations. Reconstruction is performed to maintain the integrity of the individual for any planned preservation techniques, prior to viewing following a post-mortem and the release and transfer of the deceased to authorised establishments.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

SFHHCS16

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 work within your level of competence, responsibility and accountability
- P2 apply appropriate health and safety measures, infection prevention and control and personal protective equipment to minimise the risks associated with reconstruction of the deceased
- P3 confirm completion of required pathological examinations and readiness of the deceased for reconstruction
- P4 remove all bodily fluids and dispose or store in line with relevant protocols, procedures and legal requirements
- P5 prepare the body cavities with appropriate absorbent material
- P6 add suitable support following removal of major skeletal structures to maintain the deceased stability and shape
- P7 replace organs securely in appropriate bags to avoid leakage and collection of air
- P8 ensure close incisions are secure and where possible discrete, using appropriate closure materials
- P9 do not close wounds related to illegal death or required for forensic evidence
- P10 where indicated, undertake or arrange for an embalming process to preserve the deceased according to approved national standards, policies, protocols and procedures
- P11 wash, disinfect, dry and dress the deceased in preparation for viewing and return the deceased to the appropriate holding location and environment
- P12 inform key stakeholders of the completion of reconstruction and availability for viewing and/or release and transfer to designated agencies or organisations
- P13 maintain full, accurate and legible records of the reconstruction process and store in correct location in line with current legislation, guidelines, local policies, protocols and procedures

SFHHCS16

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 your own level of competence, authority and specialist knowledge base related to reconstructing the deceased
- K2 the range of stakeholders and individuals involved, their information needs and responsibilities
- K3 the appropriate health and safety measures, infection prevention and control and the relevant personal protective equipment , their importance and application within reconstruction of the deceased
- K4 why it is important to confirm authority and readiness for reconstruction and where to obtain this
- K5 the importance of maintaining the confidentiality, security respect and dignity of the deceased during reconstruction
- K6 the importance of following the legal requirements and organisational policies, procedures and protocols for reconstruction
- K7 the methods for reconstruction and the importance of why closure techniques should be as discrete as possible and secure to prevent unnecessary distress to bereaved relatives
- K8 how to reconstruct to the appropriate standard including the use of specialist techniques and procedures for special cases
- K9 the importance of and how to safely cover and protect wounds relating to evidence of death and the method for closure of wounds and circumstances whereby wounds should not be closed
- K10 the range and type of materials and substances for cleaning, packing, preserving and securing the deceased, organs and wounds
- K11 the circumstances, confidentiality issues and relevance of imaging procedures used for viewing the deceased and as a permanent record for the bereaved relatives in line with legal and organisational requirements
- K12 the importance of ensuring an acceptable appearance of the deceased for viewing purposes
- K13 the current national legislation, guidelines, local policies and protocols which affect your work practice governing reconstruction of the deceased
- K14 the policies and guidance that clarify your scope of practice, accountabilities and the working relationship between yourself and others

SFHHCS16

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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