



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

Division of Anatomic Pathology

Consult Autopsy

Consult autopsies can be performed on fetuses, neonates and children. All requests for Autopsy must be coordinated by the Pathology Department of the submitting institution. Please contact The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Division of Anatomic Pathology Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at 215-590-1728/1729.

The following documents must accompany the body and are mandatory prior to performance of any autopsy:

- Authorization for Autopsy
 1. It must specifically authorize the Division of Anatomic Pathology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia to perform either a complete autopsy or clearly specify any restrictions.
 2. Agreement of both parents is required.
 3. Signature of one parent is acceptable if there is only one legal parent or both parents agree but one is unable to sign.
 4. Permission by telephone is acceptable only if witnessed by the requesting physician and one other person.
- Complete Death Certificate
- Copy of Clinical chart
- In case of fetal/perinatal autopsy, copies of mother's obstetric chart and neonate chart
- Clinical History
 1. List major clinical problems and diagnoses briefly
 2. List specific questions for pathologist
 3. Name of physician completing this summary

Transportation of the body from the referring institution to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia must be arranged by the Pathology Department of the referring institution. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia does not have any means for transportation.

After completion of the autopsy, the body can be released to a funeral director if the family makes appropriate arrangements. However, if such arrangements are not made, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia will not take responsibility for disposition of the body. In those cases the referring institution needs to make arrangements for transportation of the body back to the submitting institution.

The family or institution requesting the autopsy assumes full responsibility for the payment of the corresponding fee. We do not do third party billing, therefore the referring institution will be billed by our department and that institution should obtain reimbursement for our bill.

The body must be kept refrigerated (not frozen) at all times. This is particularly important when any delay in the performance of the autopsy is expected, e.g. weekends, etc. The body must be kept fresh and no fixative should be used.

In cases of fetal/perinatal autopsies, the placenta must be kept under the same conditions and accompany the body for pathologist examination.

RE: Consult Autopsy Instructions

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If karotype is to be performed, appropriate samples (skin and/or placental tissue) may be obtained at the requesting institution or by the pathologist performing the autopsy at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. However, since karotype is performed by a separate laboratory, we will send no samples unless arrangement for payment is done with the CytoGenomics lab (215-590-3550) prior to shipping.

By using and sending this Requisition Form to CHOP Outreach Lab for laboratory testing, you, the sender, acknowledge and agree that you have read and agree to the CHOP Terms and Conditions posted at www.chop.edu/labs and agree to pay CHOP the rates in CHOP's fee schedule in effect on the date the specimen is received.