

Death of a Resident

Highlights	Policy Statement
	<p>Appropriate documentation shall be made in the clinical record concerning the death of a resident.</p>
	<p>Policy Interpretation and Implementation</p>
Pronouncing a Resident Dead	1. A resident may be declared dead by a Licensed Physician or Paramedic with physician authorization in accordance with state law.
Documentation of the Death	2. All information pertaining to a resident's death (i.e., date, time of death, the name and title of the individual pronouncing the resident dead, etc.) must be recorded on the nurses' notes.
Documentation of Progress Notes and Completion of Death Certificate	3. The facility must complete and file a death certificate with the appropriate agency within twenty-four (24) hours of the resident's death or as may be prescribed by state law.
Notifying Family	4. The Nurse Supervisor/Charge Nurse will inform the resident's family of the resident's death.
Post-Mortem Care	5. Nursing Services will be responsible for preparing the deceased resident for discharge.
Notifying Mortician	6. The Nurse Supervisor/Charge Nurse must notify the funeral home, as identified in the resident's medical record, to pick up the deceased resident. (Note: Inform the funeral home if the deceased resident was on isolation precautions or if an autopsy is to be performed. Information concerning the resident's diagnosis or specific infectious agent may not be released.)
Medical Record Entries	7. The name of the funeral home and person removing the deceased resident must be entered in the resident's medical record.
Release of Deceased Resident's Body	8. The person removing the deceased resident from the facility must sign the release for the body, and the release must be filed in the resident's medical record.
Completion of Records	9. All records must be completed and forwarded to Medical Records for disposition.