

Post Mortem Care – Home and Community Based Services 11/06/20 0930

Spectrum Health contact: Kathy Michael

Document reviewed: 11.6.20

Standard Work Activity Sheet	Owner: Author: Kathy Michael, Alison Dickinson, Sarah Booth	Rev. Date: 4/1/2020, 5/5/2020, 6/26/2020, 11/6/2020
Purpose: COVID -19 Postmortem Care for suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients-HCBS		

Seq. No	Task Description:	Key Point / Image / Measure (what good looks like)	Who
1.	Postmortem Care is defined as “preparing the patient for viewing by family, ensuring proper identification of the patient prior to transportation to the funeral home, and providing appropriate disposition of patient's belongings.”	Information	
2.	Verify deceased patient is a suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patient		RN
3.	Notify the patients local health department of the deceased patient within 2 hours of death. Provide the health department with patient name and basic information. Infection Prevention will send the health department additional information the next business day.	Appendix 1: Phone Numbers during business hours M-F 8a-5p Appendix 2: Phone Numbers for afterhours and weekends	RN/clinical designee
4.	The following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn for any deceased patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Surgical mask or N-95 2. Face-shield or goggles 3. Gown 4. Gloves 	Infection Control Measures	RN

Seq. No	Task Description:	Key Point / Image / Measure (what good looks like)	Who
5.	Complete postmortem care following the established guidelines. Refer to the Death at Home Policy		
6.	The designated personnel (funeral home, medical examiner, etc.) picking up the body must be notified of the patient's COVID-19 status, so they can continue to take necessary precautions as defined by CDC.		RN
7.	Spectrum Health HCBS nursing staff are not completing postmortem respiratory testing for COVID-19. If family/representative is requesting postmortem testing, the body would need to be deferred to the medical examiner for testing– with the understanding that any costs associated may be at the expense of the family/representative.		
8.	If staying in the home until the patient is picked up, continue to wear full PPE until leaving the home		
9.	Inform family/caregiver regarding proper cleaning and laundering after patient is removed from the home		
10.	Remove PPE and discard, perform hand hygiene upon leaving the home.		RN
11.	Notify Infection Prevention of the patient's death.	infecont@spectrumhealth.org	RN