

## **AUTOPSY**

### **Guidelines for Request and Preparation**

#### **CONSENT AND PERMISSION:**

See Scripps Green Hospital P&P for details on obtaining consent for an autopsy, medical examiner cases, transportation of the body to a morgue, and other interdisciplinary issues.

#### **AUTOPSY ARRANGEMENTS:**

1. The staff physician must notify the pathologist of the major medical and/or surgical problems and define the purpose of the autopsy. Limitations in the performance of the autopsy and special procedures to be performed may be discussed at this time. In general, autopsies will be performed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Patients expiring after 3:30 p.m. will usually be autopsied the following day.
2. On weekends or holidays, contact the Anatomic Pathologist on call through the Scripps Clinic operator (858-455-9100).
3. The deceased's chart, with properly completed autopsy permits, is brought to the Pathology Office. The pathologist performing the autopsy must have the chart and permit prior to doing the autopsy. After the autopsy is completed, the chart is then returned to the Nursing Supervisor.
4. Reports are available through the Anatomic Pathology Office (858-554-8605).
  - A Provisional Anatomic Diagnosis (PAD) report should be available within 1 working day of the autopsy.
  - A Final Autopsy Report is produced within 30 working days of completion of the autopsy in most cases. Complex cases may take longer than 30 working days and will be signed out 60 days from the date of the autopsy.