DEATH

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DECEASED BABIES

KEY WORDS
Pastoral care, cremation, funeral, memorial, stillborn, Consent for Cremation, ashes, Perinatal Pathology

AIM
To inform staff of the memorial, funeral and cremation services available for deceased babies.

KEY POINTS
1. Pastoral Care Services are to be notified of all losses of an intact fetus or baby.
2. Discussions about the options available to parents are managed by Pastoral Care Services.
3. Parents have the option of having a memorial service in the King Edward Memorial Hospital chapel irrespective of their religious affiliations or otherwise.
4. Naming and Blessing services or acknowledgement of life rituals are conducted at a time arranged with Pastoral Care Services. These may be performed in the ward room or the chapel.
5. Babies are not to be left unattended by hospital staff in the chapel at any time.
6. Transport modules for discreet transportation are available through the Perinatal Pathology staff or orderlies.
7. The option of cremation at the hospital is only available for babies who are stillborn and less than 28 weeks gestation. Parents are offered:
   - Individual cremations with the return of separate ashes. These arrangements are made by Pastoral Care Services with the parents and in conjunction with Perinatal Pathology.
   - Communal cremation with collective interment of ashes at a monthly Interment of Ashes service. This is arranged by Pastoral Care and Perinatal Pathology.
8. Consent for Pathology (HPF 1480) shall be completed for all < 20 week losses noting whether consent for examination is given or declined.
9. Parental Consent must be obtained for cremation of a stillborn baby less than 28 weeks gestation. A MR 297 ‘Consent for Cremation – Baby Less than 28 Weeks Gestation’ form must be completed prior to hospital cremation. This is managed by Pastoral Care Services.
10. Babies born alive who are greater than 20 weeks gestation must have funeral arrangements made through an external funeral director. This is managed by Pastoral Care Services in conjunction with the family.
11. Stillborn babies greater than 28 weeks gestation must have funeral arrangements made through an external funeral director. This is managed by Pastoral Care Services in conjunction with the family.

12. Parents may arrange their baby’s funeral themselves if they wish.

REFERENCES (STANDARDS)

National Standards – 12 Service Provision
Legislation – Health Act 1911
  Coroner’s Act 1996
  Cemeteries Act 1986

Related Policies – Obstetrics and Gynaecology: Death
Other related documents – Nil

RESPONSIBILITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Sponsor</th>
<th>HoD Pastoral care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Endorsement</td>
<td>August 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Reviewed</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Amended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review date</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>