

Expedited Death Response (EDR) in Hospitals

The following guideline provides steps for the Expedited Death Response Team (EDRT) members to manage deaths occurring in hospitals that are from presumed COVID-19 or other natural causes.

1

Prior to Death: EDRT

- Prepare family contact information
- If able, obtain funeral home (FH) information from family, e.g. prearrangement plans
- If no family or next-of-kin (NOK) involved, note details in the health record

2

Death Pronouncement: EDRT

- Notify Trillium Gift of Life by your routine process.
 - Contact family – work with the family to confirm FH within the hour. If needed, use [funeral home finder](#) to assist in determining a funeral home.
 - Obtain FH contact information
 - Obtain the family contact information—cell phone number
 - Request that the family member with responsibility for funeral planning contact the FH promptly
 - Contact FH and provide family contact information
 - Indicate to FH if it is a COVID-19 death (confirmed or suspected)
 - Indicate family will be calling
 - Work together to plan for release into the care of the FH
 - If no family or NOK complete the applicable section on Office of the Chief Coroner (OCC) Expedited Death Report (EDR) and contact OCC Team at
 - Phone: Toll Free: 1 (833) 915-0868 / Local (Toronto): 1 (647) 792-0440
 - Email: occteam@ontario.ca
 - If clinician can prepare the Medical Certificate of Death (MCO) within one hour
 - Ensure MCO is available to provide when FH arrives
 - EDR is not required
- OR**
- If clinician NOT completing MCO within one hour
 - Complete OCC EDR
 - Engage promptly with the attending clinician for information and guidance on completion of the EDR Cause of Death section
 - Obtain both the immediate cause of death and the underlying cause of death (if applicable)
 - Email or fax to OCC Team immediately after completion
 - occteam@ontario.ca / Fax: 1 (888) 247-1845

3

Prepare transfer to morgue/staging area: EDRT

- It is **critical** to ensure identification arm band is on the deceased person with matching labeling on outside of leak proof body bag.
- If positive or presumed COVID-19, label the bag with “COVID-19”.
- Ensure the body bag is completely wiped down with a disinfectant solution (a hospital-grade disinfectant or a diluted concentration of bleach) after the deceased person is placed inside

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Body transfer to morgue/staging area: Transfer personnel

- Transfer deceased person to morgue/release area
- Logbook entry as per hospital protocol

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Release to Funeral Home: Release personnel

- Release personnel meet FH at release area
- FH staff remain outside of facility and provides FH stretcher to release personnel
- Release personnel logs the deceased person out
- At point of release from the facility ensure the body bag is completely wiped down with a disinfectant solution (a hospital-grade disinfectant or a diluted concentration of bleach)
- Release personnel transfer to FH staff outside the facility- no family in attendance
- FH transfers to vehicle