

CHAPTER XV

AUTOPSY & MORTUARY MANAGEMENT :

15.1 Mortuary and cold storage section should be headed by HOD of Forensic Medicine/Forensic Medicine Expert or in their absence by Pathologist.

15.2 This section should be responsible for storage of dead bodies and conduct of medico-legal autopsies wherever permitted.

15.3 Trained and educated para-medical staff should as far as possible be posted in the mortuary.

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15.4 This section should receive dead bodies during hospital hours. In exceptional circumstances mortuary can receive the dead bodies after office hours with prior permission.

15.5 This section should normally receive dead bodies from associated hospitals and dead bodies sent by designated police station for post mortem. Dead bodies other than those mentioned above should not be collected without permission of Mortuary In-charge/Hospital administration.

15.6 Without any identity tags, no dead body should be received and stored in the cold storage.

15.7 Details of the case i.e. C.R. No., MLC/Non-MLC, Ward/Casualty, name, age & address etc. should always be mentioned in the request for storing dead bodies, with signature and designation of the Nursing Staff.

15.8 Mortuary in-charge should authorize mortuary technician to be responsible for handing over the dead bodies (Non-MLC) after proper identification.

15.9 Dead bodies normally should not be retained in the cold storage for more than 72 hours. Hospital administration/hospital social worker should take appropriate action for disposal/handing over the dead body (non-MLC) to its relatives.

15.10 Dead bodies of medico-legal cases in cold storage shall remain under the custody of police and only handed over to them.

15.11 This section should be responsible for conducting medico-legal autopsy work wherever permitted.

15.12 Medico-legal autopsy should be conducted during office hours on all working days and on public holidays as well on special request.

15.13 Medico-legal autopsy should be carried out only at the behest of appropriate legal authority (Police or Magistrate).

15.14 The request for medico-legal autopsy should also be accompanied by inquest and other relevant documents.

15.15 Post-mortem should be conducted after the dead body has been properly identified by the I.O. of the case and relatives.

15.16 Autopsy should preferably be conducted under natural light.

15.17 Autopsy should always be conducted by a authorized Medical Personnel only.

15.18 No unauthorized person should be allowed to be present at the time of medico-legal autopsy.

15.19 Complete autopsy should be conducted in all cases.

15.20 Autopsy Surgeon should undertake relevant investigations required to facilitate forming an opinion. The hospital authority should ensure proper co-ordination from other investigative departments.

15.21 Dead body after postmortem examination should be handed over to the Investigating Officer (I.O.) of the case.

15.22 Postmortem report, inquest papers duly signed by the autopsy surgeon along with preserved items, if any, sealed properly should be handed over to the I.O. of the case as early as possible, in accordance with the instructions issued vide office memorandum No.F.131/11/92-M & PH/ Vol.II dated 22.7.94 from Department of Medical & Public Health, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and other competent authority of other State.

15.23 Proper records should be maintained in the mortuary by the mortuary technician.