

CHAPTER 27 PROCEDURE CHECKLISTS

PROCEDURE 27-1

Providing Postmortem Care

Getting Ready

1. Complete the "Getting Ready" steps.

S	U	COMMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Procedure

2. Cover the over-bed table with paper towels. Place your supplies on the over-bed table.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
3. Make sure that the bed is positioned at a comfortable working height (to promote good body mechanics) and that the wheels are locked. Lower the head of the bed so that the bed is flat. Fanfold the top linens to the foot of the bed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
4. Put on the gloves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
5. If instructed to by the nurse, remove or turn off any medical equipment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
6. Place the body in the supine position. Position the pillow under the person's head and shoulders. Undress the body and cover it with the bath blanket.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
7. Close the eyes. Put a moistened cotton ball on each eyelid if the eyes do not stay closed. If the person has an artificial eye, this should be in place, unless you are instructed otherwise.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
8. Replace the person's dentures, unless you are instructed otherwise. Close the mouth and, if necessary, gently support the jaw with the chin strap, a light bandage, or a rolled hand towel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
9. Remove any jewelry and place it in a plastic bag or envelope for the family. List each piece of jewelry as you remove it. Do not remove engagement or wedding rings, unless it is your facility's policy to do so.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
10. Fill the wash basin with warm water. Place the basin on the over-bed table. Wash the body and comb the hair. (In some cultures, the body is washed by a family member as part of a ritual.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
11. If the family is to view the body, dress the body in a clean gown or pajamas. If the bedding is wet or soiled, change the bed linens. Draw the top linens over the person, forming a cuff at the shoulders. (Do not cover the person's face.) Remove your gloves and perform hand hygiene. Straighten the room, lower the lights, and provide for the family's privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
12. After the family leaves, collect all of the person's belongings, noting each item on your list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

13. Fill out three identification tags:

- a. Attach one to the right great toe or the right ankle.
- b. Attach one to the person's belongings.
- c. Save the last to be attached to the outside of the shroud (if used).

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

14. If a shroud is to be used, put on a clean pair of gloves, apply it now and attach the third identification tag to the outside of the shroud.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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15. Gather the soiled linens and place them in the linen hamper. Dispose of disposable items in a facility-approved waste container. Clean equipment and return it to the storage area.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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16. Remove your gloves, dispose of them in a facility-approved waste container, and perform hand hygiene.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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17. Transfer the body from the bed to a stretcher for transport to the morgue, if appropriate. If the family has made funeral arrangements, leave the body in the room with the door or curtain closed.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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18. Report the time the body was transported and the location of the person's belongings to the nurse.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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Finishing Up**19.** Complete the "Finishing Up" steps.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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