 <p>B.S. Aquino Drive, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, 6100</p> <p>DR. PABLO O. TORRE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL</p>	Document Code:	DPOTMH-A-1-P03
	Effective Date:	06-30-2022
	Document Type:	Policy
	Page Number:	1 of 3
	Department/Section:	Quality Assurance
	Document Title:	<b>GUIDELINES ON THE RELEASING OF INFECTIOUS REMAINS OF PATIENTS WITH EMERGING AND REEMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE (EREID)</b>

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines in handling, transportation, and disposal of the corporal remains of patients with infectious disease.

### **LEVEL:**

Infection Prevention and Control Unit, Nursing Service Division, Medical Services Division, Housekeeping Department, Security Department, and Total Quality Division

### **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Burial-** refers to the interment of remains in a grave, tomb, or the sea.

**Cremains-** refers to the cinerary remains or the ashes resulting from the cremation of a dead body.

**Cremation-** refers to the process that reduces human remains to bone fragments of fine sand or ashes through combustion and dehydration.


**Crematorium-** refers to any designated place duly authorized by law to cremate dead persons.

**Corporal Remains Facility (CRF)-** refers to a place in which dead bodies are temporarily kept pending identification or burial.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)-** refers to the materials used to cover the human body or any part of the human body in

**Remains-** refers to the body or parts of the body of a dead person including the cremated remains.



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### **POLICY:**


1. All personnel handling the cadaver shall wear appropriate PPEs while performing their tasks. All PPEs shall be disposed of after its use.
2. Burial, preferably cremation, shall be done within 12 hours after death. However, burial of the dead body shall, to the most possible extent, be in accordance with the person's religion or customs.
3. Information on crematoriums and mortuaries contracted for cremation or burial of the remains shall be kept strictly confidential.
4. Deaths of foreign nationals shall be immediately reported to the Bureau of International Health Cooperation (BIHC). The BIHC shall then inform the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) which shall thereafter notify the concerned embassy.
5. *Riverside Medical Center, Inc. shall abide with any statutory requirements, and other government regulations related to this policy.*

### **REFERENCES:**

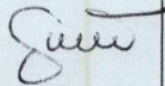


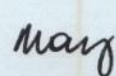
DOH Circular #2020-0067


Interim Guidelines on the Management of Human Remains for Patient Under Investigation (PUI) and Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Cases (2020);  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT MC No. 2020-063.



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**APPROVAL:**

	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	<b>SUZETTE J. PIDO, RN</b> Internal Quality Analyst-Patient Care		06-01-2022
Reviewed:	<b>DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua</b> Quality Assurance Supervisor		06-01-2022
Recommending Approval:	<b>FREDERIC IVAN L. TING, MD</b> OIC- Total Quality Division		7/7/22
	<b>MA. ANTONIA GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA</b> Vice President- Chief Medical Officer		7-7-22
Approved:	<b>GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN</b> President and CEO		

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines in handling, transportation, and disposal of the corporal remains of patients with infectious disease.

### **LEVEL:**


Infection Prevention and Control Unit, Nursing Service Division, Medical Services Division, Housekeeping Department, Security Department, and Total Quality Division

### **PROCEDURE:**

#### **A) Removal of the body from Isolation Area and Transport to Cemetery or Crematorium.**

1. All personnel handling the dead body/ body parts are required to wear the appropriate PPEs while performing their tasks. All PPEs shall be properly disposed of, preferably burned for disposable and properly disinfected for non-disposable, after its use;
2. Perform post-mortem care.
3. Remove all attached apparatuses such as tubes, drains, catheters on the human remains with EXTREME CAUTION and disposed of safely.
4. Wrap the body with cloth and place in the airtight cadaver bag that is leak-proof and shall be zipped or closed tightly with tapes and bandages strips.
5. Decontaminate surface of the bag with hypochlorite solution (50-100ppm) or any approved disinfectant.
6. Ensures that the body is fully sealed in an impermeable airtight cadaver bag before being removed from the isolation room or area, and before transfer to mortuary, to avoid leakage of body fluid.




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7. When properly packed in the airtight cadaver bag, the body can be safely removed for storage in the mortuary, sent to the crematorium, or placed in a coffin for burial.
8. At no instance shall unzipping the cadaver bag of the body and removal of the body be permitted.
9. All dead bodies must be identified, documented and correctly labeled with identity labels biohazard tag (SUSPECTED or POSITIVE COVID-19 HANDLE WITH CARE) in the cadaver bag.
10. The body is transferred to CRF as soon as possible after death, while waiting for accredited funeral party.
11. The funeral establishment shall provide the transport of the cadaver to the burial site/crematorium. The vehicle shall be disinfected immediately after the cadaver has been removed.
12. Housekeeping shall disinfect the CRF after the cadaver is endorsed to the funeral establishment.

## **B) Requirements for Burial/Cremation**


1. The Physician/ Resident/ DEM shall:
  - 1.1. sign the duly accomplished death certificate form from the medical records.
2. The Hospital Medical Records shall:
  - 2.1. Issue the death certificate
  - 2.2. Report the death to the City/Municipal Health Office (CHO/MHO) within 48 hours after the death; and
  - 2.3. Forward to the local civil registrar concerned within 30 days after death for registration.
  - 2.4. Accomplish all documentary requirements related to burial/cremation in coordination with the CHO/MHO.
3. No burial/cremation shall take place without a validly issued death certificate.

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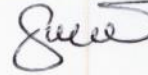



### REFERENCE:

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**APPROVAL:**


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	<b>MA. ANTONIA GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA</b> Vice President- Chief Medical Officer		7-7-22
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KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
1. Wears the appropriate PPEs while performing the tasks	All personnel
2. Performs post-mortem care	Nurse/ Nursing Attendant
3. Removes all attached apparatuses such as tubes, drains, catheters on the human remains with EXTREME CAUTION and dispose immediately	
4. Wraps the body with cloth and place in the airtight cadaver bag that is leak-proof; zip or close tightly with tapes and bandages strips	
5. Decontaminates the surface of the bag with hypochlorite solution (50-100ppm) or using any approved disinfectant	Housekeeping Personnel
6. Ensures that the body is fully sealed in an impermeable airtight cadaver bag before being removed from the isolation room or area, and before transfer to mortuary, to avoid leakage of body fluid	Nurse/ Nursing Attendant
7. Labels the cadaver bag with identity labels and biohazard tag	
8. Transfers the body to the CRF as soon as possible after death, while waiting for accredited funeral party	Auxiliary Personnel
9. Disinfects the CRF after the cadaver is endorsed to the funeral establishment	Housekeeping Personnel



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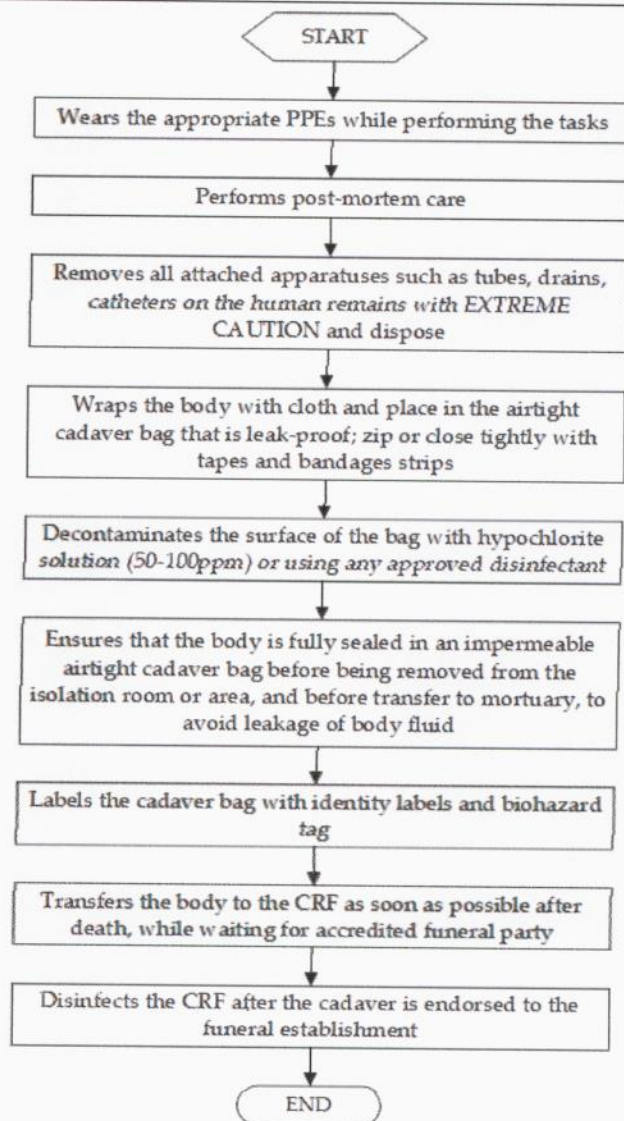


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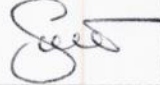


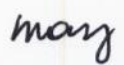
## FLOWCHART





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