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	Document Type:	Policy
	Page Number:	1
	Department/Section:	Quality Assurance
	Document Title:	GUIDELINES ON THE RELEASING OF INFECTIOUS REMAINS OF PATIENTS WITH EMERGING AND REEMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASE (EREID)

PURPOSE:


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

LEVEL:

IPCU, Nursing Service Department, MSD, Housekeeping, Security, and Total Quality Division


DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1. **Burial** Refers to the interment of remains in a grave, tomb, or the sea.
2. **Cremains** Refers to the cinerary remains or the ashes resulting from the cremation of a dead body.
3. **Cremation** Refers to the process that reduces human remains to bone fragments of fine sand or ashes through combustion and dehydration.
4. **Crematorium** Refers to any designated place duly authorized by law to cremate dead persons.
5. **Corporal Remains Facility (CRF)** Refers to a place in which dead bodies are temporarily kept pending identification or burial.
6. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** Refers to the materials used to cover the human body or any part of the human body in order to prevent contamination from the disease. This includes facial mask, eye protectors or goggles, gown, gloves, etc.
7. **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. Riverside Medical Center, Inc. shall abide with any statutory requirements, and other government regulations related to this policy.

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PROCEDURES


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

1. Post-mortem care.
2. 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;
3. All attached apparatuses such as tubes, drains, catheters on the human remains should be removed 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.
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.

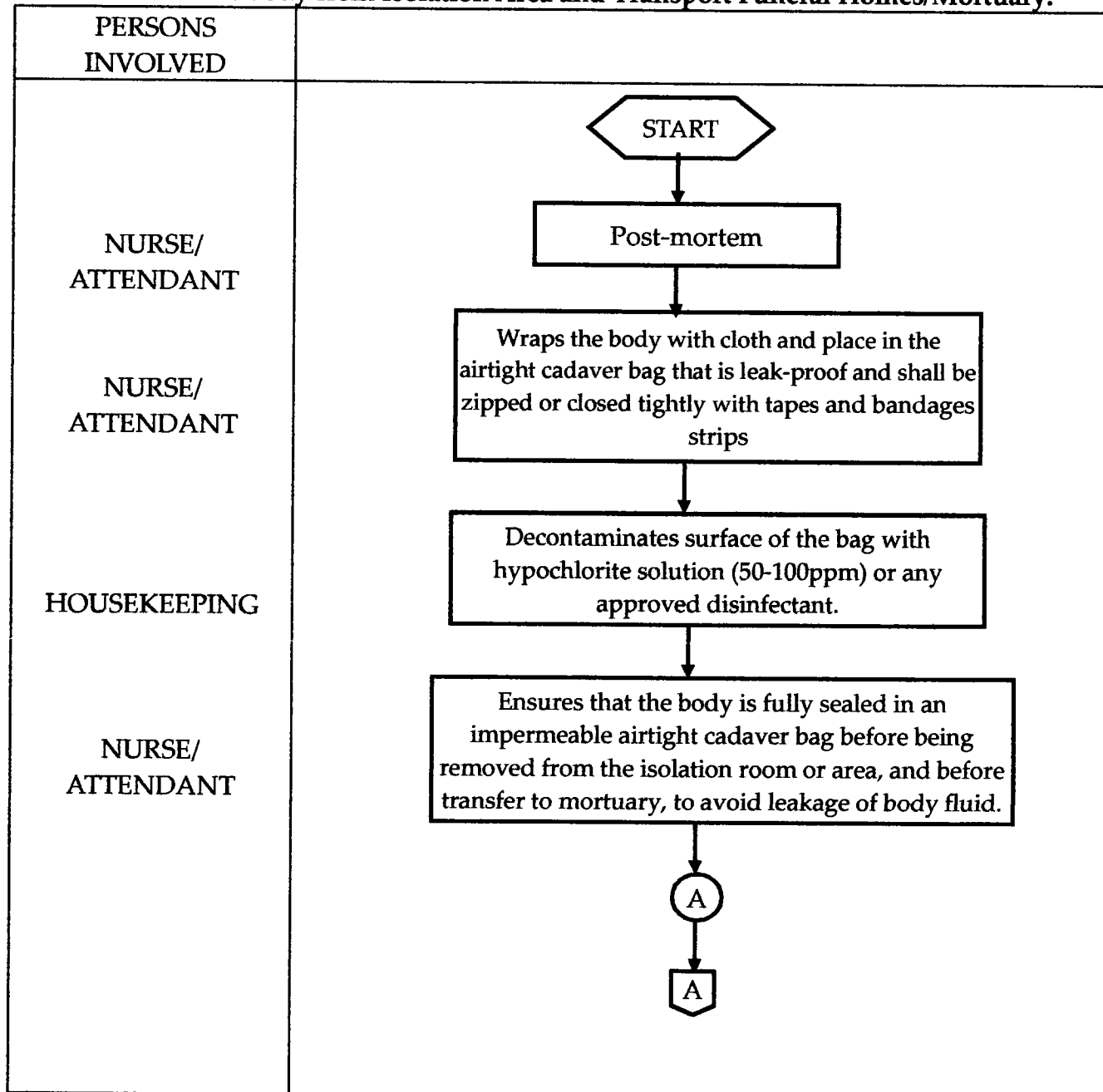
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B. Requirements for Burial/Cremation

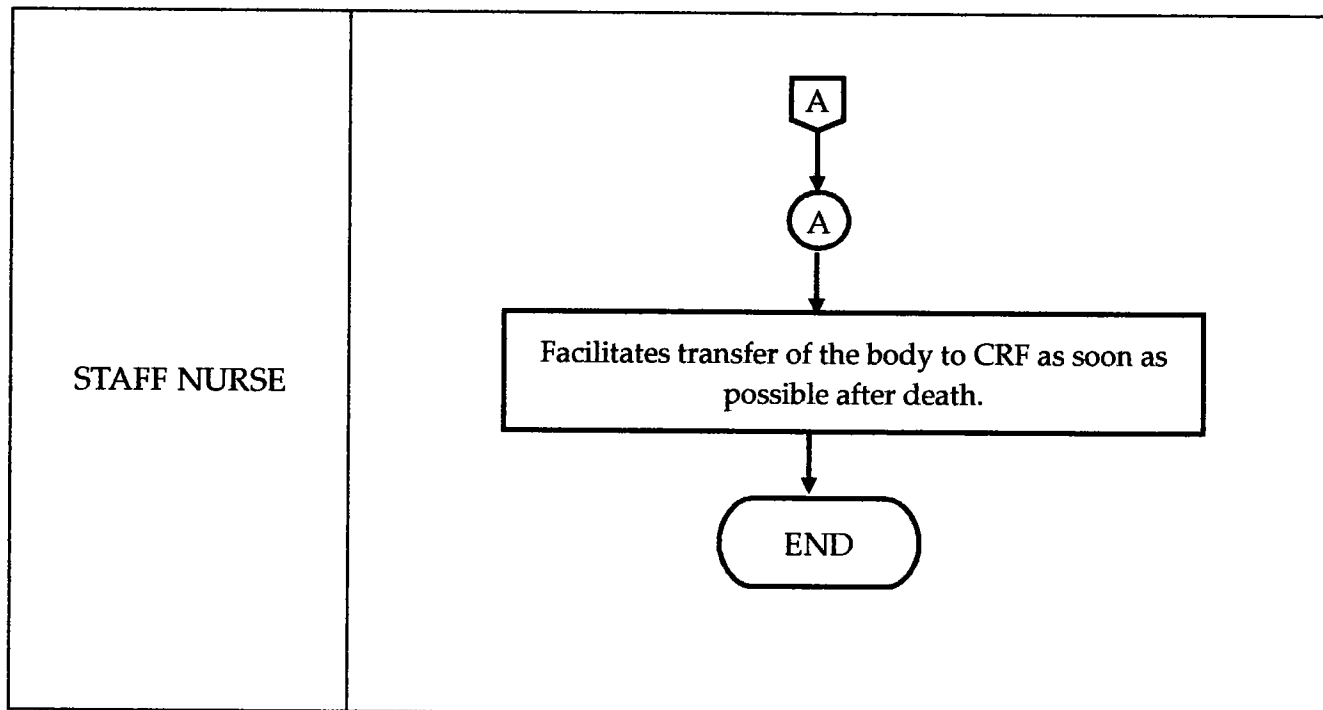
1. The Physician/ Resident/ DEM shall:
 - a) sign the duly accomplished death certificate form from the medical records.
2. The Hospital Medical Records shall:
 - a) Issue the death certificate
 - b) Report the death to the City/Municipal Health Office (CHO/MHO) within 48 hours after the death; and
 - c) Forward to the local civil registrar concerned within 30 days after death for registration.
 - d) 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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A. Removal of the body from Isolation Area and Transport Funeral Homes/Mortuary.



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STAFF NURSE/ ATTENDANT

1. Wraps 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.
2. Decontaminates surface of the bag with hypochlorite solution (50-100ppm) or any approved disinfectant.
3. 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 funeral hearse, to avoid leakage of body fluid.
4. Facilitates transfer of the body to the funeral hearse as soon as possible after death.

ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

1. Signs the duly accomplished death certificate from the Medical Records

MEDICAL RECORD


1. Issues the death certificate;
2. Reports the death to the City/Municipal Health Office (CHO/MHO) within 48 hours after the death; and
3. Forwards to the local civil registrar concerned within 30 days after death for registration.

HOUSEKEEPING

1. Disinfects the stretcher after the cadaver/remains has been transferred to the funeral hearse.

FUNERAL ESTABLISHMENT

1. Provides the transport of the cadaver from RMC CRF to Mortuary or Funeral Home.

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DISSEMINATION

Intranet (Communicator)
Weekly Management Meeting

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.