

GENERAL:

The division of Pathology at Cincinnati Children's provides autopsy services for CCHMC patients and for outlying institutions, offering comprehensive pediatric, perinatal and fetal postmortem examinations performed by highly trained pediatric pathologists.

Routine autopsies are generally performed during regular business hours Monday through Friday. A representative of the outlying institution should call the Department of Pathology (513.636.4261) to discuss any cases under consideration for an autopsy and to arrange appropriate paperwork and records needed before transporting any patient to CCHMC.

Any special requests regarding weekend or holiday autopsies will need to be approved by the autopsy director prior to transportation the patient.

(513.636.3495- Dr. Lara Berklite MD, Autopsy Director)

(513.636.4200- asking for autopsy director)

If Genetic testing is desired, this can be requested separately through the division of Human Genetics by completing a genetic requestion form and sent with the patient. While genetics is often important in understanding the case of death, it is NOT included with the autopsy. We can obtain a sample and forward it to the genetics lab with the completed form. Genetics is separate from the Department of Pathology and the charges are handled entirely by their department. For questions regarding specific testing and associated cost, please call (513.636.4474.)

The outlying institution is responsible for arranging transportation. This includes arriving to CCHMC and return transfer back to the institution or funeral home. For more assistance with directions please reach out to protective services or the pathology front office.

(513.636.4204- protective services)

(513.636.4261- pathology lab)

The patient must arrive with proper identification. Without two patient identifiers on the body, they will be returned to the referring institution to properly label patient.

PAPERWORK:

- Our CCHMC autopsy permit is the only permit that is accepted and should accompany the patient when arriving at Children's Hospital. The consent must be signed by the appropriate family member(s) in accordance with Ohio state law. The consent must be obtained and signed by a physician.

CCHMC PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AUTOPSY SERVICE

- The contact information sheet provides the Autopsy service with physician contact information to send reports or who should be contacted for additional information. This form also provides billing information along with the contact person or funeral home information for pick up after the autopsy is completed.
- Clinical information about the patient (as well as the mother in the case of fetal and perinatal cases) is also required. Medical records of the labor and delivery, prenatal care, ultrasound reports, and prenatal testing is essential. In addition, clinical notes are also requested if the infant was admitted. Other clinical information may be requested on a case-by-case basis. If possible, all paperwork should be faxed prior to transporting the patient. (513.803.2941)

Examination of the placenta is an essential component in fetal and perinatal deaths. A placental worksheet and placenta (*fresh or in formalin*) are requested in all fetal and perinatal cases. If the placenta has been previously examined, we request that slides (recut or original), a pathology report, and placental fragments be sent to CCHMC with the body.

CHARGES:

- Fees are structured competitively and are based on the type of autopsy performed. For specific pricing please call (513.636.6421) and request the business office.
- This service is a contract between the outside institution and the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Cincinnati Children's. *Under no circumstances will we bill the family or their insurance company for the autopsy.*
- Routine clinical laboratory testing such as bacterial, vial and fungal cultures, as well as molecular testing of selected viruses by PCR analysis is included at no additional cost.
- Any specific laboratory testing requiring an outside reference lab will not be done unless there is prior approval and payment agreement.
- Radiographic imaging is not considered routine practice at Cincinnati Children's. In cases where X rays are considered an essential component of the autopsy, our Radiology Department will perform these studies for an additional fee. These additional charges will be included in the autopsy service invoice.

REPORTS:

- A preliminary autopsy report will be available within four business days of the autopsy date and faxed to the designated contact listed on the information sheet.
- A final report will be completed within 90 days of the autopsy date and faxed to the designated contact listed on the information sheet.