

APPENDIX Q-4

AUTOPSY OF PATIENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED THERAPEUTIC AMOUNT OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL

Autopsy of Patients Who Have Received Therapeutic Amounts of Radioactive Material

If a therapy patient undergoes emergency surgery or dies, it is necessary to ensure the safety of others attending the patient. As long as the patient's body remains unopened, the radiation received by anyone near it is due almost entirely to gamma rays. The change in emphasis when an operation or autopsy is to be performed is due to the possible exposure of the hands and face to relatively intense beta radiation. Procedures for emergency surgery or autopsy can be found in Section 5.3 of NCRP Report No. 37, "Precautions In The Management of Patients Who Have Received Therapeutic Amounts of Radionuclides".

Section 9	Applicability
RH-8500	Y
RH-8530	Y
RH-8550	Y
RH-8600	Y
RH-8620	Y
RH-8630	
RH-8670	Y

The following procedures should be followed:

1. Immediately notify the Authorized User in charge of the patient and the RSO upon death of a therapy patient.
2. An autopsy will be performed only after consultation and permission from the RSO. Radiation safety staff should evaluate the radiation hazard(s), direct personnel in safety and protection, and suggest suitable procedures in order to keep doses ALARA during the autopsy.
3. Protective eyewear should be worn by the pathologist and assisting staff for protection from possible splashing of radioactive material. Consider the need for protection against radiation dose from high-energy beta rays in cases involving therapy with P-32 and Y-90.
4. Remove tissues containing large activities early to help reduce radiation dose of autopsy personnel. Shield and dispose of contaminated tissues in accord with license conditions. In some cases, dose reduction may be accomplished by removing tissues for dissection to a location where the dose rate is lower.

If an injury occurs during the autopsy that results in a cut or tear in the glove, monitor the wound and decontaminate as appropriate to the situation; inform the RSO.

The following reference is provided to assist the Applicant:

NCRP Report No. 111, "Developing Radiation Emergency Plans for Academic, Medical, and Industrial Facilities", 1991. This document is available from the

National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements,
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Bethesda, Maryland 20814-3095