CARING FOR DECEASED PATIENTS
NEW PROCESS FOR NURSING

Effective Friday, March 12, 1999, it is Nursing's responsibility to do the following:

After the patient has been pronounced dead by a physician:

1. Notify Transportation of need to transport body to the morgue. A special gurney will be brought to the unit.
2. Notify Southwest Transplant Alliance (STA) 1-800-201-0527 and be prepared to answer questions in case of organ donation
3. Verify that patient ID band is on body
4. Shroud the body and attach tag to big toe (toe tag in shroud kit)
   - Shroud kits will be available on unit supply carts (Adult MM#32242 and Child/Infant MM#32241)
   - Complete instructions for shrouding (preparing) the body are included with shroud kit (may require 2 kits for obese patients)
   - Lines and tubes should remain in place or be tied off (Do not remove in case autopsy is later requested). Leave Foley in place with bag attached, leave endotracheal tube in, clamp or tie off NG tube, IV's cut or tied off, etc.
5. Affix communicable disease sticker to toe tag if applicable.
6. Bag patient's personal belongings and attach ID tag (tag in shroud kit)
7. Assist, if necessary, with transport of body to morgue including current and old medical records and patient belongings.
   - Morgue is located in Clinical Sciences Building Room 518
8. Complete and sign the Nursing portion of Section 5: CHECKLIST of the "Authorization for Post-mortem Procedures" form available on line via: http://clinweb.utmb.edu/DAP
9. The Nurse Administration may be contacted for assistance as needed.
10. Any loose medical records should be sent to Medical Records if patient and chart have already been sent to the morgue.

Resources: Nurse Manager or Administrator on call
            Office of Pastoral Care ext. 23909
            Richard Patterson (morgue) ext. 26548