

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

MEDICAL EXAMINER CASES

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SCOPE

All members of Hackettstown Regional Medical Center Medical / Dental Staff and Nursing Representatives as defined in policy and procedure.

PURPOSE

To define a process for reporting deaths to the medical examiner.

POLICY

- I. The jurisdiction for medical examiner cases is established by the medical examiner which means that any person who is pronounced dead at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (meeting the criteria listed below), Morris County Medical Examiner (973-829-8270) will be called and they will determine whether to accept or release the case.
- II. The hospital may not release any medical information to the police or news media. Such information (should be requested) through the medical examiner's office. On Emergency Department cases the Medical Examiner will need copies of all information on chart and on admitted patients the Medical Examiner will need copies of the following:
 - Face Sheet
 - H&P
 - Consults
 - Operative Report
 - Labs
- III. The following deaths are reportable to the Medical Examiner by the charge nurse/unit coordinator or Administrative Supervisor (see Nursing Structure Standards):
 - A. Death suspected as suicide.
 - B. Homicide.
 - C. Deaths in suspicious or unusual manner.
 - D. Body found unattended.
 - E. Death within 24 hours after admission to a hospital
 - F. D.O.A.
 - G. Deaths in Operating Room.
 - H. Deaths within the first 24 hours following surgery.
 - I. Death from causes which might constitute a threat to public health.
 - J. Death related to diseases resulting from employment or to accident while employed.
 - K. Sudden or unexpected deaths of infants, children, fetal and maternal deaths occurring without medical attendance.
 - L. AIDS.

NOTE: If an autopsy is not needed, the primary physician makes out the electronic death certificate