**Purpose**

# The preparation of the deceased resident prior to release to the mortuary

# **Procedure**

1. Follow regulations for reporting deaths to the coroner's office
2. Licensed nurse will obtain an order releasing the body to the mortuary before beginning post-mortem care
3. Wash your hands
4. Assemble equipment and take to room; screen resident for privacy
5. Remove all upper bedding except sheet and one pillow under resident's head
6. Place body in horizontal recumbent position.
7. Bathe body as necessary.
8. Remove all soiled dressings, drains, tubes
9. NOTE: IF CORONER'S CASE, DO NOT REMOVE ANY TUBES FROM BODY
10. Apply clean dressings if drainage is present
11. Close resident's eyes, comb hair and put dentures in and close mouth, if possible
12. If not possible to insert dentures in resident's mouth, give to mortician and note on receipt
13. If rings are on body, tape on finger and note on mortician receipt
14. Replace clean linen on top of the body and allow family to view resident
15. Discard soiled equipment properly, discard all tubes, dressings in plastic bag and place in appropriate waste
16. Clean and return equipment to proper place
17. Wash hands
18. Mortician must sign a release for the remains when removed

**General Documentation Guidelines**

1. Date, time vital signs ceased
2. Time physician was called and time responded
3. Time responsible party was called and time responded
4. Time coroner was notified and name of person contacted or release number (**ONLY APPLICABLE IF DEATH IS REPORTABLE TO CORONER)**
5. Complete mortuary release
   1. Nurse releasing remains and mortician accepting remains must sign and date the release
   2. List all belongings taken by the mortician