To: Department of Pathology, Division of Autopsy Services

From: ____________________________

Date of Request: __________/________/________

Clinical Team Members

Please list the names and beeper or phone numbers for every member of the clinical team involved in the care of this patient (attending physician, residents, interns, etc.) who would like to be informed of autopsy findings:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name (Please Print)</th>
<th>Phone Number/Pager</th>
<th>Would like to attend autopsy</th>
<th>Would like to attend organ review</th>
<th>Call with results</th>
<th>Send Report</th>
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Designated clinical team member to answer questions related to clinical care:

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<th>Contact (phone)</th>
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Clinical Information:

Major Clinical Diagnoses (Problem List; include significant past medical history):

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Clinical Course:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Terminal Event:

________________________________________________________________________________________

Specific Questions to be addressed:

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________
Please check below to specify the type of postmortem evaluation being requested:

☐ Standard Autopsy (could include imaging)
☐ Virtual Autopsy (available at York Street Campus only)

Additional Information on Virtual Autopsy

The term "virtual autopsy" refers to post-mortem imaging and related non-invasive and minimally-invasive procedures including percutaneous needle biopsy/aspiration and/or peripheral vascular access, which may involve the removal, examination, and retention of small samples of tissues and fluids deemed proper for diagnostic, educational, quality improvement, and research. The body, samples, and findings will be otherwise handled in accordance with the processes detailed in the autopsy consent above. Postmortem imaging is most informative in conjunction with full conventional autopsy. While it can be performed as a stand-alone exam, evaluation is limited. Requests for stand-alone postmortem imaging will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Request and Consent for Standard Autopsy

I ____________________________________________, the ____________________________________________, of the deceased and entitled by law to control the disposition of the decedent, hereby request that a Yale New Haven Health System pathologist perform an autopsy on the remains of ____________________________________________, for whom I assume responsibility for burial.

Request and Consent for Virtual Autopsy

(available at York Street Campus only)

I ____________________________________________, the ____________________________________________, of the deceased and ________________________________ (name) ________________________________ (relationship to decedent) entitled by law to control the disposition of the decedent, hereby request that the members of Y-TRIC (Yale Translational Research Imaging Center) in coordination with the Yale New Haven Health pathologist perform a virtual autopsy on the remains of ____________________________________________, for whom I assume responsibility for burial.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

1. I have received the delivery network's "Patient Rights" statement and I understand that I have the right to arrange for the autopsy to be performed elsewhere but prefer to have it performed at the designated delivery network location.

2. I agree to the removal, examination, and retention of organs, tissues, prosthetic devices, and fluids that the pathologists deem proper for diagnostic, educational, quality improvement and research purposes.

3. I understand that this consent does not extend to the removal or use of any of these materials for transplantation or similar purposes, which requires a separate permission.

4. I understand that organs and tissues not needed for diagnostic, educational, quality improvement, or research purposes will be sent to the funeral home with the decedent.

5. I understand that I may place some limitations on both the retention of organs and the extent of the autopsy. I understand that any limitations may compromise the diagnostic value of the autopsy or may limit the usefulness of the autopsy for education, quality improvement, or research purposes.

☐ No limitations
☐ Limit examination to the following: ________________________________

Signature page must be completed.
6. I agree to the eventual disposition of retained materials as determined by the pathologists or the standards of the institution.

7. I understand that any diagnostic information gained from the autopsy will become part of the deceased hospital medical record.

8. I understand that the autopsy report contains protected health information and as a result, the same rules of privacy and confidentiality apply to the deceased. I understand; however, that as the next of kin, I have the right to a copy of the report, and understand that it is preferable to review the report with a clinician.

☐ Please send a copy of the report to me at:

Street

City State Zip Code

9. If this death occurred at a delivery network that does not perform autopsies on-site, YNHH (YSC) will make arrangements as necessary for the transportation of the decedent to the designated delivery network where the autopsy will be performed.

10. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions that I may have regarding the scope or purpose of the autopsy and I have been provided the autopsy information for family.

I have discussed in a witnessed telephone conversation all of the issues set forth in the Consent for Postmortem Examination/Autopsy with the patient's authorized representative.

Consent was obtained by telephone on:    /    AM/PM

Name of person who gave consent: ____________________________________________

Relationship to Patient: ____________________________________________

Phone number of the person consenting to autopsy

Interpretation Services (if necessary): An interpreter facilitated the communication between the health care provider(s) and the patient or person authorized to consent for the patient in __________________________ (language) to assist in obtaining informed consent.

The interpreter conveyed the content of the original information expressed by and for both parties.

Time: _________ AM/PM   Date: __________

Check here if: ☐ Telephone  ☐ Video Interpreter  ☐ Interpreter  ☐ Bilingual Competency Program

ID Number (telephone/video only): ________________________________

Print Name of Interpreter
Autopsy
(Information for the family)

Where will the autopsy be performed?

The Autopsy Service at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) performs the autopsies for Yale New Haven Hospital, Bridgeport Hospital (BH), the Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System - West Haven, and pediatric cases from Greenwich Hospital (GH). Each of these locations is responsible for obtaining autopsy consent and arranging for the transportation of the body to YNHH York Street.

The Autopsy Service at YNHH can be reached at 203-785-2748 M - F 9AM - 5PM; weekends and holidays 9AM - 3PM. Further information is available at: https://medicine.yale.edu/pathology/clinical/autopsy/

Lawrence and Memorial Hospital (LMH) performs autopsies for LMH and Westerly Hospital (WH).

Please notify the LMH Autopsy Service at 860-444-5100 M - F 8AM – 4:30PM ONLY AFTER the Autopsy Consent is completed.

Greenwich Hospital (GH) performs autopsies for adults at GH.

Notify GH Autopsy service (203-863-3061 M - F 9AM – 5PM, or by message at 203-863-3081 outside those hours) after Autopsy Consent complete. Fax (203-863-3846) or deliver (Ground level - Room G 114) paper consents.

Autopsies are done at YNHH, at LMH, and at GH. For eligible patients dying outside of the hospital, arrangements will be made to transport the decedent to Yale New Haven Hospital, where the autopsy will be performed. The decedent will be released to the funeral home directly from the York Street Campus or optionally be transported back to the hospital where the patient was located at the time of death.

The Autopsy Process:

1. An autopsy is a post-mortem clinical consultation performed by a pathologist. Organs, tissues, prosthetic devices and fluids are examined for diagnostic, educational, quality improvement, and research purposes. It involves the use of surgical techniques and does not interfere with funeral arrangements.

2. The autopsy provides information on cause and mechanism of death and other disease processes that affected the deceased. For cases that meet criteria for reporting to the Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner or the Rhode Island Medical Examiner, those offices must first decline jurisdiction before an autopsy can be performed by the hospital.

3. The Attending Physician and Primary Care Physician (if identified) will automatically receive a copy of the preliminary and final report. The autopsy report is also available in the electronic medical record.

4. The responsible party authorizing the autopsy is also entitled to receive a copy of the preliminary and final report if so desired.

5. In most circumstances, there will be no charge for an autopsy performed on an eligible patient who has ever been under the care of a practitioner at YNHH (YSC or SRC), BH, GH, or the West Haven Veterans Hospital. At LMH and WH, autopsy services at no cost are available for inpatient deaths only. Your family has the right to have the autopsy done at another institution of their choosing. If the autopsy is performed elsewhere, your family will have to make these arrangements and pay any associated costs.

6. Yale New Haven Health is not responsible for transportation costs for decedents who died outside of a network hospital.

The Value of Autopsy:

Answers questions
Assists in resolving grief and guilt
Helps in settling insurance claims and legal claims
Helps identify familial disorders
Helps to ensure the quality of medical diagnostics and care
Helps to identify environmental and occupational health risks
Helps to identify trends in infectious diseases
Improves the accuracy of vital statistics