

Delivery Network/Location

NAME:

BIRTH DATE:

MRN:

DOS:

(If handwritten, patient name, MRN, birth date, and DOS)

Yale New Haven Health

**Request and Consent for
Postmortem Examination/ Autopsy**

Pathology barcode

**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 9A - 5P; weekends and holidays 9A - 3P. Further information is available at: <https://medicine.yale.edu/pathology/clinical/autopsy/>

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

The Autopsy Service at LMH can be reached at **860-444-5100** M - F 9AM-5PM.

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

The Autopsy Service at GH can be reached at **203-863-3061** M - F 9AM - 5PM.

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.
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

