

Mortuary Department

GDIPC

Mortuary Department

Element : E-4

- **Sub- Element (7)**
- **Activities for auditing:**
 - ✓ **(D)** documentation
 - ✓ **(SI)** staff interview
 - ✓ **(O)** observation
- **Score (0-1-2-NA)**

Sub- Element (E-4.1)

There is a written policies and procedures that address safe handling of dead bodies, including postmortem handling of patients under isolation precautions and bodies with open wounds. (D)

- Preparing the deceased for the morgue always involves the handling of blood, body fluids, and biological agents and may also involve exposure to life-threatening biologicals, chemicals, radiation, or electrical current.
- Clear infection control standards and guidelines on the appropriate care of the body following death to protect healthcare workers (HCWs), morgue staff and families from potential infectious exposures must be strictly implemented.

Review the policy, which should be:

- Comprehensive
- Fully applicable
- Based on scientific references
- Signed from authorized personnel
- Approved by IC committee
- Valid (updated within 2 - 3 years and when indicated)

Sub- Element (E-4.2)

**Hand hygiene facilities and supplies are available & easily accessible.
(0)**

Observe the morgue to ensure that:

1. There are adequate hand washing facilities equipped with all required supplies and/or Alcohol Based Hand Rub (ABHR) dispensers.
2. Definition of adequate hand hygiene facilities:
 - Adequate refers to presence of hand hygiene facility within the working area (i.e., Morgue staff do not need to leave his working area to reach a hand hygiene station of another area)
 - Adequate also refers to presence of DEDICATED hand washing facility with proper supplies apart from sinks used for any other working purposes

Sub- Element (E-4.3)

**The mortuary looks clean, there is a schedule of housekeeping activities (cleaning and disinfection) for all environmental surfaces including the inside of refrigerating and deep-freezing equipment.
(D,O,SI)**

Review documents that demonstrate ventilation and housekeeping activities of the morgue environment (appropriate evidence of application):

1. Morgue housekeeping schedule with clear roles & responsibility of housekeeping and morgue staff
2. Morgue housekeeping checklists and check whether the applied processes are compatible with the approved policy or not
3. Ask for MSDS for used chemicals and disinfectants

If autopsy room is available:

1. Copies of the original charts or project scheme for ventilation system of autopsy room: should be at negative pressure with respect to adjacent areas, and air exhausted directly outside with minimum 12 air changes per hour.
2. Local records for regular ventilation monitoring of autopsy room: negative pressure differences with respect to adjacent areas + temperatures and relative humidity \pm air changes per hour (ACH - minimum 12 air changes per hour is recommended)

with corrective interventions if readings are not matching the acceptable values

Observation:

1. Observe ongoing housekeeping activities and evaluate whether the applied processes are compatible with the approved policy or not.
2. Visit janitors' room to check the availability & specifications of housekeeping supplies: e.g., cleaning ingredients, chemicals and disinfectants, mops, wipes, spray bottles, buckets ...etc.
3. Check the quality of housekeeping activities: observe the presence of dust, dirt, soil ...etc. that demonstrate defective housekeeping.
4. Observe working and storage areas which should be of adequate capacity, well maintained, well organized and regularly cleaned according to the approved housekeeping schedule / no personal items/ no foods or drinks / no Items are kept in the original shipping boxes.

Ask morgue staff & housekeeping staff about:

1. The process of cleaning and disinfection of morgue environment:
 - Roles, responsibilities and recommended PPE (what are areas to be cleaned by morgue staff, and areas to be cleaned by housekeeping staff? / What is PPE to be used during cleaning & disinfection activities?)
 - Applied housekeeping schedule
 - Applied procedure
 - Available supplies
2. Their knowledge should be compatible with hospital's policy and the actual practices

Sub- Element (E-4.4)

Transport cadaver bags that fulfill MOH approved specifications are available in 2 sizes & to be used for dead bodies. (O)

Observe transport body bags and body tags & their specifications:

1. Heavy duty cadaver plastic pouch (made of tear-resistant, fluid-resistant and impervious material, e.g., waterproof Vinyl)
2. Bags are of different suitable sizes
3. Bag can be securely sealed for hygiene using a full-length longitudinal zipper for closure
4. Bag has a convenient access for examination and enclosure through a full-length longitudinal zipper.
5. Bag has a suitable pouch to hold the body tag

Sub- Element (E-4.5)

All Mortuary staff are well trained on hand hygiene, proper use of PPE.(O,SI)

Sub- Element (E-4.6)

**Transportation card that denotes the type (s) of isolation precautions is attached to the dead body of patient under any type of isolation.
(D,SI)**

Review the following documents:

1. Logbook used for recording of deceased while under isolation precautions and protective measures taken.
2. Morgue's transportation cards that should be attached to the dead bodies of patients under isolation precautions.

Ask the morgue staff:

1. If the nurse in charge communicates with the morgue staff to inform them about infectious status of the deceased and appropriate precautions required.
2. If they received periodic training about handling dead bodies of patient under isolation precautions.
3. If they are familiar with isolation precautions transportation cards used within the hospital.
4. If information regarding infectious status of the deceased is written on identification tag attached to the body bag.

Sub- Element (E-4.7)

Mortuary staff are fully aware about handling deceased patients due to infectious diseases or died while under isolation precautions according to the relevant approved hospital policy. (O,SI)

Observe the morgue staff for:

1. Handling the dead bodies who died under isolation precautions.
2. Observe if hand hygiene is practiced.
3. Hand washing/hand rubbing.
4. Observe if morgue staff is using appropriate PPE while handling dead bodies who died under isolation precautions:
 - Appropriate PPE includes .
 - Recommended PPE .
 - Use of metal mesh gloves or gloves made with.
 - Approved respiratory protection is required for prosecutors when performing an autopsy on a known or suspected case of TB.

Ask the morgue staff about:

1. Hand Hygiene (hand washing/hand rubbing): times / techniques / moments of hand hygiene
2. Protective clothing & PPE
3. If they received periodic training about standard precautions and handling of died while under isolation precautions.
4. If they are aware about hospital policy that covers dealing with deceased patients due to infectious diseases.
5. If they are properly trained about dealing with blood and body fluids spills.

Randomly ask 1 to 3 of the morgue staff:

1. To demonstrate techniques of hand washing/hand rubbing
2. To demonstrate donning and doffing of PPE
3. To demonstrate applied procedures for preparing dead bodies before transport from the morgue.
4. To demonstrate the technique of handling blood and body fluids spills.

Thank you