

Mortuary User Guide



University Hospitals
Bristol and Weston
NHS Foundation Trust

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1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This document is a User Manual which describes the services provided by the Mortuary department within Pathology at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston (UHBW). This document is designed for use by all users of the service at the Weston site (Weston General Hospital) and the information contained herein is correct as of the time of printing.

2.0 REFERENCES AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 REFERENCES

N/A

2.2 DEFINITIONS

HTA - Human Tissue Authority

OOH - Out of Hours

UHBW – University Hospitals Bristol and Weston

NBT – North Bristol (NHS) Trust

BRI – Bristol Royal Infirmary

3.0 POLICY AND/OR PROCEDURE

The Mortuary at Weston General Hospital holds a licence granted by an independent regulator the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) who are an executive non-departmental public body of the Department of Health and Social Care and regulator of Mortuary activities. The licence allows the Mortuary to carry out Post Mortem activities in accordance with the HTA Act 2004 and associated regulations.

The Mortuary admits persons who have died in the community who are under the care of the Somerset Coroner. Weston Hospital Mortuary facilitates a Post Mortem service on behalf of the Somerset Coroner; this service can be provided outside of normal working hours by special request.

Weston General Hospital deceased patients requiring Post Mortem come under the care of the Avon Coroner. Post Mortems for the Avon Coroner are facilitated by Flax Bourton Public and Forensic Mortuary in Bristol.

UHBW does not facilitate Adult Hospital Consented Post Mortems.

Perinatal and Paediatric Post Mortems for Sudden Infant Deaths are referred to the Coroner in the relevant District of Death. These are carried out at specialist Perinatal and Paediatric Mortuaries at the Coroners request. The Perinatal and Paediatric Mortuary located at St Michaels Hospital in Bristol is managed by North Bristol Trust – Severn Pathology.

The Mortuary located at the Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) receives and cares for in-patient hospital deceased; this is a storage facility only and does not carry out Post Mortems.

Services provided by the Mortuary at Weston General Hospital are as follows:

- **Post Mortems.**
- **Tissue Retrieval Procedures**
- **Viewings of the deceased** – By appointment only (For appointments contact the Bereavement Office during normal working hours. For viewings outside of normal working hours contact the On-Call Mortuary Technician via switchboard).
- **Storage and care of deceased.**
- **Advice** regarding viewings and after death procedures.

For information regarding Death certificates please contact the Bereavement office on 01934 647 004. Open 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

The Department is situated on the ground floor of Weston General Hospital along the main corridor linking the main hospital to the Rafters Restaurant. The Mortuary Main entrance is located opposite the main entrance to the Waterside suite. There is a separate entrance from within the Pathology Department.

The mortuary operates an On-Call service for out of hours (OOH) requests.

For OOH viewings – Contact On-Call Mortuary staff via Switchboard.

For OOH Fridge space capacity issues – Contact On-Call Mortuary staff via Switchboard.

For OOH Tissue donations – Contact On-Call Mortuary staff via Switchboard.

For OOH emergency release of bodies (e.g for religious beliefs) – Contact On-Call Mortuary staff via Switchboard.

Mortuary Contacts List and General Enquiries

Weston General Hospital Mortuary

Mortuary Manager – Terry Venn-Adams

Email: Terry.venn-adams@uhbw.nhs.uk

Anatomical Pathology Technician – Hannah New

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On Call Mortuary Staff via Switchboard 01934636363