

Newborn Critical Care Center (NCCC) Clinical Guidelines

Neonatal Death in L&D

FOR BABIES WHO DIE IN L&D SOON AFTER BIRTH:

Autopsy Consent: Because they have an ongoing relationship with the family, it is appropriate that the L&D OB/MFM physicians discuss autopsy with the family and complete the consent form. However, the final responsibility for obtaining autopsy consent rests with the service that completes the death certificate.

Death Certificate: If the infant dies without admission to the NCCC, the death certificate should be filled out by L&D OB/MFM physicians, or by the Newborn team if the infant transitions to palliative care.

Cremation Consent: Because they have an ongoing relationship with the family, it is appropriate that the L&D OB/MFM physicians discuss ultimate disposal with the family. However, the final responsibility for obtaining cremation consent rests with the service that completes the death certificate.

Situation	Documentation of Resuscitation and Attendance at delivery*	Death Certificate Autopsy Consent
Death during delivery (stillbirth) => unsuccessful resuscitation (would not be classified as a 'live birth')	NCCC documents in maternal chart. NOTE – do NOT use the 'DR template' in the maternal chart...it will pull in the maternal DOB	OB
'Live birth' => Resuscitation by NCCC => Death in the DR	NCCC documents resuscitation efforts in infant's chart**	OB
Infant alive after NCCC turns over care => palliative care by L&D or NBN	NCCC documents resuscitation and care plan in infant's chart	OB or NBN
Resuscitation then admission to NCCC for palliative care	NCCC documents resuscitation and care plan in infant's chart	NCCC
"Live birth" prior to 22 weeks (NCCC would not offer resuscitation)	NCCC documents assessment in infant's chart if you were called to 'confirm' previable GA	OB

* Document what resuscitation efforts were initiated in the DR, a physical exam, and an assessment and plan as applicable.

** The L&D HUC is responsible for creating infant chart. If that does not happen in a timely manner, document in the maternal chart.

APPLICABLE NC STATUTES:

Live birth defined:

“*Live birth*” means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which, after such expulsion or extraction, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. (Administrative Procedure 7G, .0102 (5))

Fetal death defined:

“*Fetal death*” means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such expulsion or extraction the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles. (Administrative Procedure 7G, .0102 (6))