

# Post Mortem Care

## Explained Step by Step

### Supplies:

- A body bag
- 3 name tags (included in the body bag)
- 3 patient labels
- A fitted and flat sheet
- A hospital gown
- Supplies for a bed bath

### Name tag placement:

- patient's big toe
- tie the two zippers on the bag together
- patient's remaining belongings

### Step by step:

- If there is a sign that you are supposed to place outside of the door in the hallway, make sure you do that first.
- Close the door and pull the curtain.
- Prepare the water for the bed bath.
- Raise the bed up and flatten it out.
- Remove all sheets, blankets, and the gown from the patient.
- Remove any drains and tubes from them such as IVs and foley catheters, and heart monitors. If you are unsure of whether something should be removed or this is beyond your scope of practice, call the patient's nurse for assistance.
- Dentures and glasses should go in a container and placed to the side. They should later be placed inside the body bag with the patient.
- Give the bed bath like you would if the patient was still alive. Just because they can't feel anything doesn't mean you shouldn't be thorough or should be extra rough on them.
- Some facilities require you to put a fresh hospital gown on them while others want them to be placed in the body bag naked. Check your policy or ask your supervisor if you are unsure which is preferred.
- You should now tie one of the name tags onto the patient's big toe.
- You will have to unfold the body bag and unzip it all of the way.
- Then roll up half of the bag longways.
- One of you should then turn the patient on their side.
- The other caregiver should then tuck the old linens underneath the patient and place the clean fitted sheet on the mattress.
- Tuck the fitted sheet under the patient as far as possible
- Now tuck the rolled end of the bag underneath the patient. Make sure the bag is placed in such a way so the patient will be able to fit. This means the bag should reach past their head, all the way down past their feet.
- Then turn the patient onto their other side and finish putting on the fitted sheet and unroll the rest of the bag.
- You should then be able to zip up the bag.
- Don't forget to tie the two zippers together with another name tag.
- Stretch the flat sheet over the bed completely covering the body bag. Out of respect, you do not want visitors in the hallways to clearly see the person in a bag while they are taken to the morgue.
- Don't forget that dentures and glasses go in the body bag with the patient and the last name tag should go with the patient's remaining belongings. Make sure the belongings get to the patient's family.

