

# Viewing of Deceased: Roles and Expectations of Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care

## Site Applicability

*St. Paul's Hospital, Mount Saint Joseph Hospital*

## Practice Level

Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care Practitioners

Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care Interns, Residents, and Fellows

## Need to Know

- This document defines the Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care role and expectations for requests for body viewings (ward or morgue viewing space).
- Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care is:
  - available to provide emotional and spiritual support to family members and others who are participating in a body viewing
  - available to provide support upon request of the CNL or nursing lead during regular business hours (or in exceptional circumstances)

## Procedure

1. Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL), Clinical Site Coordinator (CSC), or designated nursing leader will:
  - a. receive request for viewing, and determine if viewing is possible
  - b. communicate arrangements with family
  - c. provide or arrange for preparation of the body (including sheets, pillow, etc.)
  - d. in consultation with Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care, nursing leader will:
    - i. confirm time for a viewing
    - ii. confirm meeting place for family
    - iii. confirm which staff will be providing support (minimum of two, including one from nursing appointed by CNL and one Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care)
2. Spiritual Health Practitioner will:
  - a. meet the family, and accompany to viewing room
  - b. sensitively prepare family for viewing prior to entry
  - c. provide spiritual and emotional support
  - d. walk family back to meeting place or exit

**Persons/Groups Consulted**

Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care

Corporate Director, Acute Care

**Developed by:**

Director Spiritual Health and Pastoral Care

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