

## **Discussing Adult Authorised** (Hospital) Post Mortem Examination



Be prepared and consider why it may be beneficial

to perform a post mortem



Allow time before broachina the

subject



Reassure the family that post mortems are carried out in a clinical and caring manner



Whole organs cannot be retained after the body has been released without specific authorisation



A body cannot be bequeathed for anatomical dissection and post mortem examination



Post mortem examination should not delay the issuing of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, or the funeral

Liaise with your pathology department



Do not assume that relatives will refuse on the grounds of their cultural, faith or spiritual beliefs



Invasive

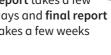
Non Invasive

Post mortem examinations can be invasive, partially invasive, or non-invasive



Post mortem examinations can be performed after organ donation

The preliminary report takes a few days and final report takes a few weeks











🌐 www.sad.scot.nhs.uk 💌 supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk 📝 @NES\_Bereavement



Please visit www.sad.scot.nhs.uk to watch a short animated film on this topic and for other educational resources on death, dying and bereavement for health and social care professionals