

Discussing Adult Authorised (Hospital) Post Mortem Examination



Be prepared and consider **why it may be beneficial** to perform a post mortem

Liaise with your **pathology department**



Allow time before broaching the subject

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



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

Invasive **partially Invasive** **Non Invasive**

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



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



Post mortem examinations can be performed after **organ donation**



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

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



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

Communicate results clearly



www.sad.scot.nhs.uk



supportarounddeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk



[@NES_Bereavement](https://twitter.com/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