

## Death in ICU – Model Final Discharge Summary

If there is a death on the unit, a death summary must be dictated. The following information should be included in the summary:

- Letter addressed to Patient primary care physician, and copied to referring physician(s).
- ID: Patient name, age, social details; statement that patient has expired.
- HPI:
  1. Reason for presentation to hospital
  2. Initial diagnosis
  3. Indication for ICU admission
  4. Important milestones in clinical progress during ICU stay
  5. Active medical issues at the time of patient's death including therapeutic plan for each
  6. Level of care of the time of death (i.e. palliative versus otherwise)
- Time of Death and Immediate Cause of Death
- Coroner's case or not
- Yes/No to autopsy,
- Yes/No to tissue/organ donation,
- Copies to relevant services/consultants/Family doctors

### Example:

Dear Dr.Y,

This letter is regarding Ms. N. As you know she was a very pleasant 65 year old lady who lived independently in Kingston, and had 3 sons living nearby. She did expire on May 17<sup>th</sup> during her stay in the Intensive Care Unit at Kingston General Hospital.

Ms N presented to hospital on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 with chest pain. She was diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome. She was treated with PCI and medical management of her coronary artery disease. She was transferred to the ICU on May 15<sup>th</sup> in cardiogenic shock. Ms. N suffered an aspiration event at the time of her intubation and was treated for aspiration pneumonitis with prophylactic antibiotics. She also suffered hepatic and renal failure in the setting of cardiogenic shock. She required acute hemodynamic support and hemodialysis.

In a family meeting on the day of her death, her 3 sons, in concert with ICU attending physician, social work, RN and clinical fellow decided to pursue care with palliative intent.

Ms. N died at 23:35 on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001 from cardiogenic shock as a result of acute coronary syndrome. She died without suffering, with her family at her bedside. Family denied interest in autopsy, organ/tissue donation, and this was not a coroner's case.

We are readily available should you require further information: 613.549.6666. ext 7811.

Sincerely,  
L Housestaff, PGY3