



Australian Government

SIFEMWK011 Treat the head and body after autopsies

Release: 1

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Modification History

Not applicable.

Application

This unit describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required to perform head and body restoration on autopsied bodies. It applies to embalming staff who work autonomously with a high level of responsibility and according to work health and safety, relevant legislation and workplace policies and procedures.

No licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

Competency Field

Mortuary Work and Embalming

Unit Sector

Embalming

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENTS

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements describe the essential outcomes.

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1. Prepare to perform head and body restoration.

- 1.1 Prepare and use personal protective equipment.
- 1.2 Prepare mortuary area and appropriate instruments and equipment.
- 1.3 Identify extent of head and body restoration required through examination of the deceased person.

2. Perform head restoration.

- 2.1 Remove suturing from scalp.
- 2.2 Remove calvaria and packing material.
- 2.3 Treat calvaria, cranial cavity and scalp areas using a cauterising agent.
- 2.4 Pack cranial cavity as required.
- 2.5 Refix calvaria using skull clamps, glue or suture technique as appropriate.
- 2.6 Cover gaps using sealing compounds as required.
- 2.7 Suture scalp and seal closed.

- 2.8 Wash and dry hair using germicidal soaps and shampoos as required.
 - 2.9 Identify hazards, complications and problems and take appropriate corrective action.
3. Perform body restoration.
 - 3.1 Remove all suturing from body.
 - 3.2 Remove sternum, viscera and packing material.
 - 3.3 Treat sternum, body cavity and exposed tissue areas using a cauterising agent, preserving gel, or powder.
 - 3.4 Pack pelvic cavity as required.
 - 3.5 Restore throat/neck area as appropriate.
 - 3.6 Return treated viscera into cavity.
 - 3.7 Put treated sternum in place.
 - 3.8 For long bone donation, re-insert disinfected bone replacement material.
 - 3.9 Apply appropriate suturing techniques and glue to all autopsy incisions.
 - 3.10 Re-cleanse and disinfect body.
 - 3.11 Identify hazards, complications and problems and take appropriate corrective action.
4. Clean instruments, equipment and mortuary area.
 - 4.1 Clean, disinfect or sterilise instruments and equipment.
 - 4.2 Dispose of waste materials.
 - 4.3 Store instruments and equipment and report faults.
 - 4.4 Clean and disinfect mortuary area.

Foundation Skills

This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance in this unit, but not explicit in the performance criteria are listed below:

- Reading skills to interpret work health and safety and infection control legislation.
- Numeracy skills to calculate ratio for disinfecting instruments and equipment.

Unit Mapping Information

SIFEMWK009A Restore head damage on autopsied cases.

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=c2c3131e-4418-4aa3-8ff1-a855c95f7fd6>

