Inmate Death

Subjective Data:
Allergies: ____________________________

Description of Emergency: ____________________________________________________________

Time of Notification: _____________ Notified By: ______________________________

Time of Arrival: _______________ Arrived By: ______________________________

History of medical problems: ___________________________________________________________

Current medication(s): __________________________________________________________________

Objective Data: Recognized clinical signs used when documenting death

☐ Absent of carotid pulse
☐ Absent of heart sounds
☐ Absent of respiratory movement and breaths sounds
☐ Post mortem changes on skin:
  ☐ Waxy appearance
  ☐ Mottling
☐ Mortis
  ☐ Pallor mortis, paleness which happens in the 15–120 minutes after death
  ☐ Livor mortis, a settling of the blood in the lower (dependent) portion of the body
  ☐ Algor mortis, the reduction in body temperature following death. This is generally a steady decline until matching ambient temperature
  ☐ Rigor mortis, the limbs of the corpse become stiff (Latin rigor) and difficult to move or manipulate

Plan:
Nursing Intervention:

☐ CPR started: Time: ___________________ (if indicated)  CPR terminated: Time: __________________

☐ AED applied: Time: ________________ (if indicated)  (Shockable rhythms: Ventricular tachycardia and Ventricular fibrillation)

☐ Checked for clinical signs of death using a stethoscope and heart monitor
☐ Checked carotid pulse for over 1 minute and repeated after 3 minutes. Confirmed no carotid pulse.
☐ Checked for heart sounds for over 1 minute and repeated after 3 minutes. Confirmed no heart sounds.
☐ Checked for respiratory movement and breaths sounds for over 1 minute and repeated after 3 minutes. Confirmed no respiratory movement or breaths sounds.

If there is any uncertainty, the situation is likely to become clearer in 15-30 minutes. Go though the checklist again. Do not feel pressurized to declare “life extinct” instantly. Gurgling noises etc. may occur immediately after death which may make verification more difficult.

Under the Oklahoma Nursing Practice Act (ONPA), nurses may properly observe and record the status of a patient in order to allow a qualified medical practitioner to draw conclusions or to make a diagnosis. Nurses do not have the authority to pronounce death under the ONPA.

Inmate last seen alive: _____________________________________ Date: __________ Time: __________

Health care provider notified: __________________________________ Date: __________ Time: __________

Time of death pronouncement per health care provider: _____________________

CHSA notified: ___________________________ Date: __________ Time: __________

Facility head notified: ___________________________ Date: __________ Time: __________

Progress Note: ____________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________________________

RN/LPN Signature/Credentials: __________________________________ Date: __________ Time: __________

Inmate Name  
(Last, First)  

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