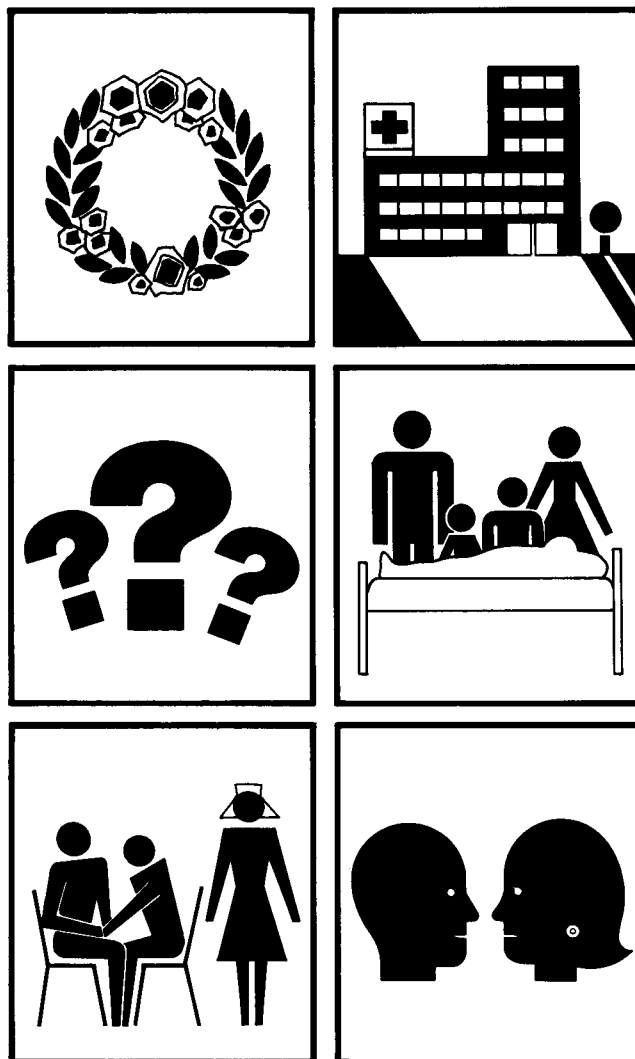


Further Information

You will probably have other questions to ask: may we suggest that you talk to the doctor or the social worker through a Health Care Interpreter who will be able to advise you on how to obtain further information.

When a Relative Dies in Hospital



This publication has been developed and translated by the Health Translations Service in consultation with the Social Workers Oncology Group and Trudy Coffey, the Chief Social Worker, Liverpool Hospital.

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Health Information and Translation Services
NSW Department of Health

Telephone numbers are correct at time of publication but are not continually updated. You may need to check the numbers in the telephone directory.

We extend to you our sympathy at your loss. We offer the following information to assist you at this difficult time. You may take this home with you, and if you come back to the hospital more information will be available to you through an interpreter. As this leaflet provides general information you may find a slight variation from one hospital to another.

Interpreter Service

A free confidential interpreter service is available at this hospital during office hours. Ask the hospital to arrange an interpreter for you as soon as possible, or you can telephone an interpreter yourself on the following numbers:

Sydney:	Northern Metropolitan Region 438 7560
	Southern Metropolitan Region 516 6999
	Western Metropolitan Region 633 5444
Newcastle:	Hunter Region (049) 26 3533
Wollongong:	Illawarra Region (042) 74 4211

What to do?

When a patient dies in hospital you do not have to do anything straight away. The deceased will be moved to the hospital mortuary and you may ask to see them there if you would like to. The deceased will be kept there until you contact a funeral director. You will be able to discuss with him the preparation of the deceased for burial according to your wishes (see below). Removal of the remains from the hospital should be discussed with the funeral director when an interpreter is present.

Belongings of the Deceased

If you wish you may collect personal clothing from the hospital ward. If it is your wish that certain jewellery (e.g. wedding ring, earrings, etc.) is not to be removed, you should inform hospital staff as soon as possible. Hospitals will usually provide safe keeping for valuable items which should only be given to the person appointed by law (the executor) to execute the will.

Cause of Death

This can be discussed with the doctor who attended the deceased. The Health Care Interpreter Service can be made available.

Sometimes for various reasons the doctor may wish to perform a post-mortem (autopsy). You will then be asked to sign a consent form. You may wish to discuss this with the hospital through an interpreter.

A Post-Mortem (Autopsy)

A post-mortem is an examination by experts of internal body organs, including microscopic and laboratory tests, to determine the cause of death.

There are some instances where the law in Australia requires that a post-mortem *must* be done even though this may not be customary in some cultures.

Result of Post-Mortem

The result of the post-mortem will be available to you from the hospital administration or from the doctor who treated the deceased. Ask the Health Care Interpreter to make the necessary inquiries for you.

Funeral Director (Undertaker)

You must contact a funeral director, preferably near where you live. If you are unaware of funeral directors in your area, or if you need any help or information, please arrange an appointment with the social worker and Health Care Interpreter. They can assist you with your inquiries.

You have the right to choose a funeral director who is able to provide a funeral according to your specific needs, including your religious requirements and possible shipment of the remains overseas.

The funeral director will arrange for the deceased to be removed, and for all the necessary documentation to be completed, as well as making all arrangements for the funeral, in accordance with your directions.

Costs

The person who approaches the funeral director and orders a funeral is legally responsible for the account. Costs and method of payment should be discussed with the funeral director. In cases of financial hardship please arrange a meeting with the social worker and a Health Care Interpreter.

Death Certificate

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages is responsible for the issuing of birth, marriage and death certificates. The funeral director usually notifies the Registrar of the death, and you will be able to apply for a Death Certificate from the Registrar a few weeks after the death.

(Cost — as at 14.10.85 — \$9.00 for a full certificate and \$6.00 for an extract.) Local registrars are located at Sydney (Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 50 Bridge Street, Sydney, 2000, telephone: 240 1205); Newcastle; Wollongong (Unanderra) and at court houses in most country areas.