

Leamington Mennonite Home  
Long Term Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

<b>CATEGORY:</b> Resident Care	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Postmortem Care	<b>SECTION:</b> P
<b>DATE:</b> February 1995	<b>Administrator:</b> _____ <i>J. M.</i>	<b>POLICY:</b> 8
<b>REVISION DATES:</b> May 2013	<b>Director of Care:</b> _____ <i>Cheryl Allick</i>	

POSTMORTEM CARE

**POLICY:**

To ensure that the resident is treated with respect and dignity after passing away. The right to privacy is very important and the family should be given reasonable time with the resident.

**PROCEDURE:**

- After the family has left the room, the PSW's will collect the following equipment: clean bedding, towel and wash cloth, clean johnny shirt, soap and a basin of warm water.
- Provide privacy for the resident. Make sure the bed is flat. Position the resident in a supine position. Make sure the arms and legs are straight and place one pillow under the head. Gently close the resident's eyes and mouth.
- Wash the resident's face and body. Put on clean gown. Remove all supplies from the room.
- All tubing and dressings are to be removed by the Registered Staff. Cover the resident up to the shoulders with a sheet.
- Allow the family time with resident and ensure privacy.
- Dentures and eyeglasses should be placed on the bedside table.
- The Registered Staff will inform the Funeral Home when the resident's death has been pronounced and the body is ready to be released. The Registered Staff will ensure that the Farewell Quilt is at the bedside to be placed over the resident when they are taken to the hearse. The Funeral Director will then fold the quilt and return it to the staff. The quilt will be returned to the Palliative Care Room and hung on the wall.
- The Registered Staff will document which items have been sent with the Funeral Director in the computerized e-notes and ensure that all paperwork is signed.
- When the resident has been discharged to the Funeral Home, the PSW's will strip and carbolize the bed.

- The resident's personal belongings will remain in the room until the family have removed what they wish to take. Once this has been done, the family will indicate to staff that the rest of the belongings can be removed by the staff. The remainder of the room is to be carbolized.