

Investigation into post mortem cardiac device interrogation

Request for Information

To garner a comprehensive understanding of the practices and data surrounding patients with cardiac devices, we kindly request the following information:

Q1	How many patients pass through your morgue each year?	On average over the last three years, we had 1376 deaths per year
Q2	Approximately what proportion of these have a cardiac implantable device in situ? (PPM, ICD, ILR)	We don't keep record of how many deceased had a device.
Q3	Does the hospital morgue also take deaths from the community, or is it for inpatients only?	YES, we are a hospital and community mortuary.
Q4	Is there a cardiac physiology department on site at your hospital?	YES
Q5	If a patient has a cardiac device in situ, is it routine practice for a device check to be undertaken after death?	NO
Q6a	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely added to the patient's notes/hospital record?	N/A
Q6b	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely passed on to the clinical team?	N/A
Q7	If no and this is not routine practice, are there ever exceptions to this, i.e., occasions where a post-death device check is requested by the clinical team?	YES
Q8	If yes, please elaborate (for example, how often or under what circumstances this occurs).	<p>Checks are requested when the device is an ICD or CRT-D as the device needs to have the tachy therapies deactivated prior to being extracted. A device interrogation report is written and added to the patient's notes.</p> <p>For brady pacemakers or CRT-P devices we are not generally called to check the device.</p>

--	--	--

We welcome any additional information or comments that might help in our investigation.

We appreciate your assistance and the time taken to provide this information. Your insights are invaluable.