

NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES  
SECTION: 20

PALLIATIVE CARE, GRIEF AND LOSS

Section 20: Palliative care, grief and loss.  
Funeral arrangements  
Date created: Aug 2006  
Date revised: Aug 2014  
Review date: Aug 2017

Neonatology Clinical Guidelines  
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals  
Perth Western Australia  
Authorisation and review by  
Neonatal Coordinating Group

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## FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

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### HOSPITAL CREMATION FOR STILLBORN INFANTS AND INFANTS <28WEEKS

Hospital cremation can occur if the infant is stillborn and <28 weeks gestation. A referral is routinely made to Pastoral Care Services who will provide parents with all necessary information; and complete and process the *MR297 Consent for Cremation of Baby less than 28 weeks gestation*. Written parental consent for cremation is required using this form. The MR297 form must be received by Perinatal Pathology before any cremation can take place. Perinatal pathology will not cremate an infant until at least three days after the MR297 form is received.

Hospital cremations are without cost to the parents, however, parents cannot attend the actual cremation.

### PRIVATE FUNERALS INVOLVING A FUNERAL DIRECTOR

In the case of a stillbirth over 28 weeks of gestation or a neonatal death of any gestational age, it is necessary for parents to choose and make contact with a funeral director. Discussion with Pastoral Care Services staff and Social Worker will be valuable as these persons can offer parents support, resources, options and information that will assist with cultural, religious, spiritual requests.

### MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Memorial Garden is located within the grounds of King Edward Memorial Hospital. A service for the Interment of Ashes is held monthly. Details of this service are managed by Pastoral Care Services in conjunction with parents and Perinatal Pathology staff.

As an alternative to interring ashes in the Memorial Garden parents can choose to collect their infant's ashes. This information is given by Pastoral Care Services staff and included in the MR297 form.

In circumstances where a private cremation involving a funeral director has taken place, arrangements can be made to have the ashes interred within the Memorial Garden if requested. Arrangements will be made with Pastoral Care Services. Plaques and other memorials are not permitted in the Memorial Garden but a register is kept of all whose ashes are interred.