

 <p>BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD HAUORA A TOI</p> <p>DEATH OF A PATIENT PROTOCOL</p>	<p>DEATH OF A PATIENT – BLESSINGS</p>	<p>Policy 6.6.1 Protocol 13</p>
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STANDARD

It is Bay of Plenty District Health Board's (BOPDHB) policy that after every death the room or cubicle, linen and equipment will be blessed in accordance with this policy.

OBJECTIVE

- To enable the immaterial soul of the tupapaku to return spiritually back to his/her ancestral homeland, whanāu, hapu and iwi or commend accordingly to their spiritual beliefs.
- To cleanse the room or cubicle, linen, equipment and all the surroundings that the deceased has had contact with.
- To leave the room or cubicle, linen, equipment and all the surroundings of the hospital in a state of peace and tranquillity free from the tapu mauui / tapu haumate of the tupapaku (i.e. free from the influences of the deceased).
- To ensure a ceremony of blessing, cleansing and completion is carried out in a spiritually appropriate manner.

STANDARDS TO BE MET

1. Staff who are celebrants will meet bi-annually to assess the ongoing provision and administration of this policy.
2. Staff who would like to be celebrants should contact the Chaplains or Director Regional Maori Health Services
3. A register of Celebrants is to be kept by the Chaplains, with a copy held by the Duty Managers.
4. A whanāu, hapu or Maori organisation (Iwi, Runanga Maori Authority) have the option to carry out the appropriate tikanga pertaining to their own deceased person's rituals, practises and philosophies relating to their whanāu, hapu or iwi.
5. Family of the deceased have the right to perform their own blessing / rituals according to the deceased person's culture, religious beliefs or philosophies.
6. Blessing the area
 - 6.1 Blessing will be conducted as soon as possible after the deceased patient's body has been removed from the room / cubicle.
 - 6.2 Inform deceased patient's family / whanāu of the procedure if possible.
 - 6.3 Accommodate family / whanāu and staff if they wish to participate in the ceremony.
 - 6.4 A 'celebrant' as defined in this policy must perform the blessing.
 - 6.5 Family / whanāu of the deceased / tupapaku may request a specific celebrant.
 - 6.6 Ward staff will contact celebrant to carry out the blessing.
 - 6.7 The blessing will include all equipment and linen that has been used in attending the patient from the time of death. It must be kept in the room (and the door closed) or cubicle curtains drawn until the blessing is completed.
 - 6.8 The blessing will also include the deceased / tupapaku health record. The celebrant will obtain this file from the ward staff and return it immediately following the blessing of the room.

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- 6.9 Some form of notification must be placed on the closed door / or locker top stating that the “Room Requires Blessing”
- 6.10 Following the blessing, the room or cubicle is cleared and cleaned in the usual manner.
- 6.11 The celebrant will confirm the procedure has been completed by leaving a note with the returned patient health record or record in the department’s blessing book.
- 6.12 A room must not be reallocated until blessing is completed.

REFERENCES

- The Treaty of Waitangi

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.6.1 Death of a Patient
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.6.1 protocol 1 Death of a Patient - Record of Death
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.6.1 protocol 2 Death of a Patient - Coroner Notification and Investigation
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.6.1 protocol 7 Death of a Patient - Care Following Death
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 6.6.1 protocol 11 Death of a Patient - Perinatal / Paediatric Non-Coronial Post Mortem Transfer to Auckland / Wellington
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.4.4 Cultural Safety - Maori
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 1.4.4 Cultural Safety – Maori - Standards

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