Procedures on the Newly Deceased
IUSM-GME-PO-0020

Scope
This policy applies to all Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) Graduate Medical Education (GME) resident physicians.

Reason for Policy
The purpose of this policy is to define the IUSM policy on invasive procedures performed on the newly deceased. A fundamental requirement of the profession of a physician is to maintain public and individual trust. IUSM believes that the teaching of invasive procedures on newly deceased patients is not acceptable and therefore, will not be tolerated.

Policy Statement
IUSM firmly prohibits invasive procedures on the newly deceased solely for teaching purposes by medical students, residents, and fellows.

It is understood that IUSM training programs have an obligation to ensure residents’ procedural and technical skills, including abilities to perform invasive procedures. Historically, many training programs have taught invasive procedures on recently deceased patients because of the realism, high quality, and accessibility.
It is acknowledged that other teaching sources such as cadavers, simulators, and animal laboratories are frequently employed for teaching invasive procedures but are less accessible, less realistic, and more costly. Despite these acknowledged challenges, it is believed that competent physicians can be trained without performing invasive procedures on the newly deceased.

Definitions

A resident is an IUSM resident or fellow, or a non-IUSM resident or fellow electively rotating through IUSM and provides clinical care as part of a GME program.

Implementation

The Designated Institutional Official (DIO) for Graduate Medical Education is responsible for implementation of this policy.

Oversight

Policy authority for this document resides with the Graduate Medical Education Committee. The DIO and the Graduate Medical Education Committee are responsible for oversight. This policy will be reviewed every three years or more often if deemed necessary.

History

2. Policy reviewed, updated, and approved by GMEC on 12 February 2014.