

## Policy/Service: Guidance for Doctors on Post Mortem Examinations

### Background

- Description of the aims of the policy
- Context in which the policy operates
- Who was involved in the Equality Impact Assessment

The aim of this guidance is to provide practical information about post mortem examinations and the consent process which must be followed. The guidance is based upon the Human Tissue Act 2004 and the Human Tissue Authority Guidance 2006.

The Human Tissue Authority's Code of Practice sets out the standards expected of staff who communicate with the relatives of patients who may undergo post mortem, and this guidance reflects the standards required.

It is intended for use by internal staff only.

### Methodology

- A brief account of how the likely effects of the policy was assessed (to include race and ethnic origin, disability, gender, culture, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age)
- The data sources and any other information used
- The consultation that was carried out (who, why and how?)

The policy has undergone an initial equality impact assessment in December 2007 where the comments of ethnic groups were sought via the End of Life Care Group and the Head of Pastoral Care. In updating the Impact Assessment, the End of Life Care Group has again commented on the policy ; this group includes patient representation. Since it's first impact assessment, there have been no significant changes to the policy.

### Key Findings

- Describe the results of the assessment
- Identify if there is adverse or a potentially adverse impacts for any equalities groups

As detailed above, the policy has been circulated amongst the Trust's End of Life Care Group, which includes Patient Representation, and it has been agreed that no changes were felt to be necessary. There are no adverse or a potentially adverse impacts for any equalities groups.

### Conclusion

- Provide a summary of the overall conclusions

There are no adverse or a potentially adverse impacts for any

equalities groups, hence there are no recommended changes as a result of this impact assessment.

**Recommendations**

- State recommended changes to the proposed policy as a result of the impact assessment
- Where it has not been possible to amend the policy, provide the detail of any actions that have been identified
- Describe the plans for reviewing the assessment

There are no recommended changes as a result of this impact assessment.