



Guidelines for Death of a Jewish Patient

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Jewish tradition believes that the body of the deceased is sacred. Jewish law therefore states that the deceased body must be treated with the utmost respect due to its sanctity.

We therefore ask for the following guidelines to be followed:



- 1. The body of the deceased should remain untouched for a period of 20 minutes.**



2. Open a window if it is practical.



3. Pour out any uncovered liquids such as a glass of water that are in the same room as the deceased.



4. Do NOT remove venflons, catheter tubes or ET tubes.

If there are any secretions or blood, any cloths used to wipe them up should be placed in a bag and leave with the body.



- 5. If no member of the family or Jewish community capable of dealing with body have arrived, the following procedure should be carried out by the nursing staff:**



A. The eyes and mouth should be closed.

The mouth should be held in a closed position by placing the cloth under the chin and tying it above the head.

(size 8 bandage tied around the head).

Cover the face with a sheet.



B. The fingers of each hand should be straightened, and the hands and arms should be parallel to the body.

Similarly, the legs and feet should be straightened.



C. The body should be laid flat with any pillows etc. removed.



D. Any incisions or open wounds should be plugged to prevent or stem a flow of blood.



E. Any excess dirt should be wiped away or washed off.



F. The body, in its current dressed state, should be wrapped in a sheet in the hospital mortuary IN THE FRIDGE where it should remain untouched pending the arrival of the authorised Jewish undertaker or their representative.



G. The Jewish Sabbath & festivals commence at sunset and ends at nightfall.

During this period, it will not be possible to contact the chaplain or Jewish undertakers, nor will they be able to attend the body.

The procedure and points outlined above should therefore be adopted.



H. Jewish tradition dictates that a burial should take place as soon as possible after the death, therefore where possible, please expedite the signing of the MCCD to ensure prompt burial.



**Any questions, please feel free to call
Misaskim NW London's 24-hour hotline on
0300 111 0 333**

**You can also visit our website on
www.misaskimnw.org**



Misaskim NW London work in partnership with Kavod Funeral Services who are available 24/7 and can be contacted on the Jewish Sabbath and festivals alike.

Collections can be arranged for a minimal fee even on the Sabbath/festivals by our non-Jewish colleagues.

Phone line: 0203 191 9100