WISCONSIN STILLBIRTH SERVICE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION TO THE STILLBIRTH PROTOCOL PACKET

Included in this packet are materials that we think will be quite helpful in the step by step community-based evaluation of stillborn infants. These materials include:

1. A one page summary outline of the basic steps in evaluating a stillborn.
2. A letter to parents and consent form (can also use your own hospital forms).
3. A summary sheet of studies performed to be returned to us with the first materials.
5. Suggestions for methods to be used in taking clinical photographs, obtaining the x-ray evaluation and testing maternal blood for fetal-maternal hemorrhage.
6. Directions for obtaining samples for chromosomal studies, including what samples to take, how, and how to process them, as well as forms to accompany those samples.
7. Answers to the most commonly asked questions about these evaluations.

Comments regarding the protocol:

First, we know that coordination of activities when an unexpected and relatively infrequent event occurs can be a problem. Should significant questions or problems arise you can contact The WiSSP director for advice: Elizabeth W McPherson, M.D. -- (715) 389-3533. Dr McPherson no longer carries a pager. For urgent questions please use Dr. McPherson’s cell phone -- (715) 615-5522.

Second, this is a community based program and is intended to be flexible to meet local needs. For example, if your institution routinely refers perinatal autopsies to another institution, the other portions of the study such as photos or X-rays could be done either at the referring institution or at the referral center as part of the autopsy. While Marshfield will accept infants for autopsy if it cannot be done at the birth hospital, be aware we cannot offer the autopsy free of charge. Furthermore Marshfield does not have a dedicated perinatal pathologist and may need to send some babies elsewhere. If you have questions about sending a perinatal autopsy to Marshfield, please contact the Pathology Department directly at 715-221-6100.

Last, we do want to be involved. The primary goal of this project is to effect better evaluation and, from that, better counseling of the parents of a stillborn. To do this the following materials will need to be forwarded:

- Checklist Summary Sheet of studies performed
- Maternal prenatal and perinatal records
- Clinical Examination Form
- Photographs and X-rays
- Placental pathology report
- Autopsy report -- when available, mailed separately.

We will automatically receive chromosome results from the cytogenetics laboratory.

Thank you,

Elizabeth McPherson, M.D.
Director, Wisconsin Stillbirth Service Program