

## 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.***
4. *Clinical examination form.*
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 us for advice: **Elizabeth W McPherson, M.D. -- (715) 221-7409 or Medical Genetics Services -- (715) 221-7400 ask for Kari Bohman or for the genetic counselor on triage call. After hours for emergencies, please page Dr. McPherson -- (715) 389-6876.**

Second, this is a community based program and is intended to be flexible to meet local needs. For example, if autopsy is to be done at another institution the other portions of the study could be done either at the referring institution or at the referral center. While we feel that optimal and timely evaluation can be best initiated in the hospital of birth, if you prefer, stillborn infants can be transported to Marshfield for autopsy. Such arrangements should be made directly through the Department of Pathology [Christopher Cold, M.D.]. Please be aware we cannot offer the autopsy free of charge unless the mother was seen at a Marshfield Clinic center during the pregnancy

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