Reporting Protocol for the Examination of Gross Autopsy of Adult Decedents

Version: autopsy-adult-20.02

Protocol Posting Date: February 2020

**Accreditation Requirements**

The use of this protocol is recommended for autopsy but is not required for accreditation purposes.

**This protocol may be used for the following procedures:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Procedure** | **Description** |
| Autopsy | Includes routine autopsy for adult decedents |

**The following should NOT be reported using this protocol:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Procedure**  |
| Forensic autopsy |
| Pediatric autopsy |

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With guidance from the CAP Autopsy and Neuropathology Committees.

*\* Denotes primary author. All other contributing authors are listed alphabetically.*

**Summary of Changes**

20.02 – New autopsy reporting protocol

Reporting Template

**Notes: This case summary** **may be useful for reporting autopsy findings but is not required for accreditation purposes. (NOTE A)**

**PATIENT IDENTIFICATION AND CONSENT FOR AUTOPSY**

**Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Consent and patient ID reviewed by**

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mr./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Two unique patient identifiers reviewed**

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MRN: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Type of autopsy**

\_\_\_ Complete

\_\_\_ Brain only

\_\_\_ No head

\_\_\_ Chest only

\_\_\_ Abdomen only

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of consenter****: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Relationship to the deceased: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PRIOR POSTMORTEM PROCEDURES**

**\_\_\_ Organ Donation (select all that apply)**

\_\_\_ Corneas

\_\_\_ Skin

\_\_\_ Bone and soft tissue (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Organs (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Funerary Preparation (select all that apply)**

\_\_\_ Eye caps

\_\_\_ Jaws wired or sewn closed

\_\_\_ Evidence of embalming (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**EXTERNAL APPEARANCE**

**\_\_\_ General**

\_\_\_ Well-developed

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_ Race**

\_\_\_ Caucasian

\_\_\_ African American

\_\_\_ Hispanic

\_\_\_ Asian

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Sex**

\_\_\_ Male

\_\_\_ Female

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Body Weight (kilograms) \_\_\_\_\_kg**

**Body Length (centimeters) \_\_\_\_\_cm**

**BMI \_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Note: use formula weight (kg)/ [height (m)]2*

**\_\_\_ Personal effect with or on the body**

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Yes (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Toes / fingernails:**

\_\_\_ Unremarkable

\_\_\_ Onychomycosis

\_\_\_ Koilonychia

\_\_\_ Splinter hemorrhages

\_\_\_ Cyanotic

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Skin**

\_\_\_ Unremarkable

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Palpable lymph nodes**

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ Neck

\_\_\_ Axilla

\_\_\_ Groin

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Hair**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Balding

\_\_\_ Short

\_\_\_ Long

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Hair color**

\_\_\_ Black

\_\_\_ Brown

\_\_\_ Blond

\_\_\_ Grey

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Eye color**

\_\_\_ Brown

\_\_\_ Blue

\_\_\_ Hazel

\_\_\_ Green

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pupil measurement- right (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

**Pupil measurement- left (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

**\_\_\_ Sclerae**

\_\_\_ Anicteric

\_\_\_ Icteric

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Ears**

\_\_\_ Unremarkable

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Nose**

\_\_\_ Unremarkable

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Oral cavity**

\_\_\_ Good dentition

\_\_\_ Poor dentition

\_\_\_ Dentures

\_\_\_ No teeth

\_\_\_ Exam not performed due to rigor

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ External genitalia**

\_\_\_ Normal male

\_\_\_ Normal female

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Leg circumference 10 cm from medial malleolus**

\_\_\_ Right (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Left (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm

**\_\_\_ Edema**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Peripheral

\_\_\_ Generalized

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Scars/ incisions**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Present (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Location (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Size (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm

**\_\_\_ Evidence of therapy**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Nasogastric tube

\_\_\_ PEG tube

\_\_\_ Endotracheal tube

\_\_\_ Foley catheter

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Back**

\_\_\_ Unremarkable

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INCISIONS AND BODY CAVITIES**

**\_\_\_ Incision**

\_\_\_ Standard Y-shaped

\_\_\_ Biparietal

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Organs in normal anatomic positions**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**+ Panniculus (centimeters measured at thickest area): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

**\_\_\_ Peritoneal fluid**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Present (milliliters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ml

\_\_\_ Serous

\_\_\_ Cloudy

\_\_\_ Serosanguinous

\_\_\_ Sanguinous

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Peritoneal surfaces**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right pleural cavity**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right pleural fluid**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Present (milliliters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ml

\_\_\_ Serous

\_\_\_ Serosanguinous

\_\_\_ Sanguinous

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left pleural cavity**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left pleural fluid**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Present (milliliters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ml

\_\_\_ Serous

\_\_\_ Serosanguinous

\_\_\_ Sanguinous

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM**

**\_\_\_ Heart weight**

\_\_\_ (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g

*Note: see reference table by patient weight*

**\_\_\_ Pericardium**

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ No adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Pericardial fluid**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Present (milliliters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ml

\_\_\_ Serous

\_\_\_ Sanguinous

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**+ \_\_\_ Epicardial fat**

+ \_\_\_ Minimal

+ \_\_\_ Moderate

+ \_\_\_ Large amount

+ \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Epicardial surface**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Glistening

\_\_\_ Roughened

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Coronary ostia**

\_\_\_ Normally positioned

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Foramen ovale**

\_\_\_ Closed

\_\_\_ Probe patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Coronary arteries follow normal anatomic course**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Coronary circulation**

\_\_\_ Right dominant

\_\_\_ Left dominant

\_\_\_ Co- dominant

**Atherosclerosis**

**\_\_\_** **Left anterior descending artery (LAD)**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ % stenosis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Eccentric

\_\_\_ Concentric

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left circumflex artery (LCX)**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ % stenosis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Eccentric

\_\_\_ Concentric

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right coronary artery (RCA)**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ % stenosis: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Eccentric

\_\_\_ Concentric

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Chamber dilation**

\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Valve leaflets**

\_\_\_ Thin/ delicate

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Chordae tendinae**

\_\_\_ Thin

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**+ Valve circumferences**

**+ Tricuspid (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

\_\_\_\_ Abnormalities (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note:* *Reference range 10.0 – 12.5 cm*

**+ Pulmonic** **(centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

\_\_\_\_ Abnormalities (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Reference range 7.0 – 9.0 cm*

**+ Mitral (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

\_\_\_\_ Abnormalities (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Reference range 8.0 – 10.5 cm*

**+ Aortic (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

\_\_\_\_ Abnormalities (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Reference range 6.0 – 7.5 cm*

**\_\_\_ Myocardium**

\_\_\_ Firm

\_\_\_ Red-brown

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_ Endocardium**

\_\_\_ Smooth and thin

\_\_\_ Thickened

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Left ventricular free wall (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

*Note: Reference range less than 1.5 cm*

**Right ventricular free wall (centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

*Note: Reference range less than 0.5 cm*

**Septum** **(centimeters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cm**

*Note: Reference range less than 1.5 cm*

**\_\_\_ Pulmonary artery**

\_\_\_ Appropriate caliber

\_\_\_ Normal configuration

\_\_\_ Contains embolus

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Ascending aorta**

\_\_\_ Appropriate caliber

\_\_\_ Normal configuration

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Major arteries arising from aortic arch**

\_\_\_ Normal configuration

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Thoracic aorta**

\_\_\_ No atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Mild atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Moderate atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Severe atherosclerosis

**\_\_\_ Abdominal aorta**

\_\_\_ No atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Mild atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Moderate atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Severe atherosclerosis

**\_\_\_ Venae cavae**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Thin- walled

\_\_\_ Thrombi present

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

**\_\_\_ Epiglottis, larynx, trachea**

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Right lung weight** **(grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Reference range 360 – 570 g*

**Left lung weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Reference range 325 – 480 g*

**\_\_\_ Fixation**

\_\_\_ Fixed in distension

\_\_\_ Cut fresh

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right lung parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Soft and pale red

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left lung parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Soft and pale red

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Bronchi**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Bronchial mucosa**

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Pulmonary arteries**

\_\_\_ No atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Pulmonary emboli (specify size and location)

\_\_\_ No pulmonary emboli

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**DIGESTIVE SYSTEM**

**+ \_\_\_ Tongue**

+ \_\_\_ Papillated

+ \_\_\_ Smooth

+ \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Esophagus**

\_\_\_ Normal anatomic configuration

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Esophageal mucosa**

\_\_\_ White

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Squamocolumnar junction**

\_\_\_ Sharply defined

\_\_\_ Indistinct

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Stomach**

\_\_\_ Empty

\_\_\_ Distended

\_\_\_ Contains partially digested food and liquids

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Gastric mucosa**

\_\_\_ Intact, rugated

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Appendix**

\_\_\_ Present

\_\_\_ Surgically absent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Small bowel**

\_\_\_ Usual caliber

\_\_\_ Dilated

\_\_\_ Strictured

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Small bowel serosa**

\_\_\_ Tan pink shiny

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Small bowel contents (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_ Small bowel mucosa**

\_\_\_ Tan

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Large bowel**

\_\_\_ Usual caliber

\_\_\_ Dilated

\_\_\_ Stricture

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Large bowel serosa**

\_\_\_ Tan pink shiny

\_\_\_ Adhesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Large bowel contents (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_ Large bowel mucosa**

\_\_\_ Tan

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Polyps

\_\_\_ Diverticula

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**+ \_\_\_ Superior mesenteric artery**

+ \_\_\_ No atherosclerosis

+ \_\_\_ Degree of atherosclerosis (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

+ \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Liver weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Reference range 1500 – 1800 g*

**\_\_\_ Liver capsule**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Glistening

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Liver parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Slightly firm

\_\_\_ Firm

\_\_\_ Soft

\_\_\_ Maroon-brown

\_\_\_ Green tinged

\_\_\_ Yellow orange

\_\_\_ Rusty brown

\_\_\_ Mottled red

\_\_\_ Nodular

\_\_\_ No focal lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Gallbladder**

\_\_\_ Present

\_\_\_ Surgically absent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Gallbladder wall**

\_\_\_ Thin

\_\_\_ Fibrous

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Gallbladder mucosa**

\_\_\_ Velvety

\_\_\_ Green

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Gallbladder contents**

\_\_\_ Dark green mucoid bile

\_\_\_ No calculi

\_\_\_ Calculi

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Extrahepatic biliary system**

**\_\_\_** Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Portal vein**

**\_\_\_** Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Hepatic arteries**

**\_\_\_** Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Hepatic veins**

**\_\_\_** Patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Pancreas dimensions** **(centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm**

*Note: Average 23.0 x 4.5 x 3.8 cm*

**\_\_\_ Pancreatic parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Tan

\_\_\_ Firm and lobulated

\_\_\_ Autolyzed

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Pancreatic duct**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Not probe patent

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**URINARY TRACT**

*Note: Average combined kidney weight 230-440 g*

**Right kidney weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

**\_\_\_ Right kidney cortex**

\_\_\_ Thickness (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Granular

\_\_\_ Scarred

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right kidney parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Red-brown

\_\_\_ Clearly demarcated corticomedullary junctions

\_\_\_ Ill-defined corticomedullary junctions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Right ureter**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Not patent

\_\_\_ Dilated

\_\_\_ Not dilated

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Left kidney** **weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

**\_\_\_ Left kidney cortex**

\_\_\_ Thickness (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Granular

\_\_\_ Scarred

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left kidney parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Red-brown

\_\_\_ Clearly demarcated corticomedullary junctions

\_\_\_ Ill-defined corticomedullary junctions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left ureter**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ Not patent

\_\_\_ Dilated

\_\_\_ Not dilated

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Renal arteries**

\_\_\_ Patent

\_\_\_ No atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Mild atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Moderate atherosclerosis

\_\_\_ Severe atherosclerosis

**\_\_\_ Bladder**

\_\_\_ Collapsed

\_\_\_ Volume of urine (milliliters): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ml

**\_\_\_ Bladder mucosa**

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**MALE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT (if appropriate)**

**\_\_\_ Prostate**

\_\_\_ Normal size

\_\_\_ Enlarged

\_\_\_ Nodular

\_\_\_ Size (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Testes**

\_\_\_ Normal size

\_\_\_ Enlarged

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Testes cut surface**

\_\_\_ Brown parenchyma

\_\_\_ Tubules string in normal manner

\_\_\_ Tubules do not string

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE TRACT (if appropriate)**

**\_\_\_ Uterus**

\_\_\_ Present and appropriate size

\_\_\_ Present (comment): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Surgically absent

**\_\_\_ Right Ovary**

\_\_\_ Size (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Not identified

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Left Ovary**

\_\_\_ Size (centimeters): \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm x \_\_\_\_ cm

\_\_\_ Not identified

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Endometrium**

\_\_\_ Pale

\_\_\_ Red

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Vagina**

\_\_\_ Without lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Cervix**

\_\_\_ Without lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM**

**Right adrenal** **weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Average weight 6 g (trimmed)*

**Left adrenal weight** **(grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Average weight 6 g (trimmed)*

**\_\_\_ Adrenal parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Uniform yellow cortices

\_\_\_ Good demarcation from the medullae

\_\_\_ Autolyzed

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Thyroid**

\_\_\_ Weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g

\_\_\_ Symmetrical

\_\_\_ Red-brown

\_\_\_ Firm

\_\_\_ Nodular

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Average weight 30 – 70 g*

**\_\_\_ Breast tissue contains small amount of white fibrous tissue within yellow fat**

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM**

**Spleen weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Average weight 150 – 200 g unless over 80-years-old, then average 100 g*

**\_\_\_ Spleen capsule**

\_\_\_ Smooth

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Spleen parenchyma**

\_\_\_ Dark red

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Bone marrow**

\_\_\_ Dark red

\_\_\_ Hard

\_\_\_ Softer than usual

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Lymph nodes**

\_\_\_ Not enlarged

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Thymus**

 **\_\_\_** Not identified

 \_\_\_ Age appropriate fatty replacement

 \_\_\_ Present (weigh)

 \_\_\_ Other

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM**

**\_\_\_ Diaphragm**

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Skeletal muscles**

\_\_\_ Red-brown and firm

\_\_\_ Appropriate mass for age/ gender

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_Calvarium**

\_\_\_ Intact

\_\_\_ Normal thickness

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Vertebral column**

\_\_\_ Normal curvature

\_\_\_ Kyphosis

\_\_\_ Scoliosis

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Ribs**

\_\_\_ Fractures (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ No fractures

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Vertebral bodies**

\_\_\_ No fractures

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM**

Gross brain observations at time of autopsy. Post-fixation brain cutting observations and tissue sampling will be considered in separate protocol (under development)

**Brain weight (grams): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ g**

*Note: Average weight 1100 – 1600 g*

**\_\_\_ Dura**

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Epidural hemorrhage

\_\_\_ Subdural hemorrhage

\_\_\_ Removal reveals no bony abnormalities

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Leptomeninges**

 \_\_\_ No lesions

 \_\_\_ Subarachnoid hemorrhage

 \_\_\_ Opacity or discoloration

 \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Cerebral hemispheres**

 \_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Asymmetric (specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Atrophy (specify: diffuse, focal, lobar): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Edema (specify: diffuse, focal): ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Base of brain**

 \_\_\_ No lesions

 \_\_\_ Uncal herniation

 \_\_\_ **Circle of Willis**

 \_\_\_ Normal

 \_\_\_ Atherosclerosis (specify location and severity): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_ Aneurysm (specify location and type): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 *\* Note: If a ruptured aneurysm is suspected clinically and hemorrhage is present at the base of the brain, it is advisable to wash away the blood and conduct a thorough search for the aneurysm before fixation of the brain.*

 \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Cerebellum**

\_\_\_ No lesions

 \_\_\_ Tonsillar herniation

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Brainstem**

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Spinal cord**

\_\_\_ Length (cm from cut superior to conus): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_cm

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Not submitted

**\_\_\_ Pituitary**

\_\_\_ No lesions

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**+ EYES**

**+ \_\_\_ Eyes**

+ \_\_\_ Submitted

+ \_\_\_ Not submitted

+ \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**AUTOPSY PROCEDURES AND ANCILLARY TESTING**

**\_\_\_ Approach to autopsy dissection**

\_\_\_ Rokitansky

\_\_\_ Virchow

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Special dissection**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Tissue retention**

\_\_\_ Stock jar

\_\_\_ All organs (until signout)

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Additional samples taken**

\_\_\_ Blood (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Vitreous

\_\_\_ Tissue (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_ Ancillary testing**

\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_ Radiology (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Blood cultures (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Tissue cultures (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Toxicology (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# Explanatory Notes

## A. Introduction

## The aim of this protocol is to improve the completeness, clarity, and portability of autopsy reporting, while being mindful of the wide range of practice settings in which the data in the report is generated and disseminated. Autopsy reporting has traditionally been entirely in prose, a methodology which complicates real time dictation in many cases, and which does not make data easily retrievable, particularly across institutions.

## The protocol is based upon input from past and present members of the CAP Autopsy Committee, CAP Neuropathology Committee, and input from Katie Flickinger, MS, PA(ASCP)CM as well as the references below.

## The construction of this protocol does allow for the insertion of sentences where desired and thus combines the best of templating and traditional description. It is recommended that it be used as a paper copy or electronic tool directly in the autopsy suite while a case is being completed, though its use can be adapted as needed at different centers and depending on the information technology environment. Portions of the template may also be used in limited autopsies. Though this template represents the Autopsy Committee’s recommendations for inclusion in an autopsy report, some sections with a plus sign “+” are considered more readily optional in practice and could be omitted.

## Not only will the template provide more easily reproducible and extractable data, it may be used as a guide for trainees and pathologists who may only perform a limited number of autopsies in their practice. The committee hopes this is a first step in providing a general framework for more standardized quality autopsy practice.

## The content of the protocol represents the consensus opinion of the CAP Autopsy Committee. It was ordered by organ system rather than order of the block dissection in recognition of variations in dissection practices across institutions as well as to create the most intelligible final report. Recognizing that the order of elements may be adjusted by users, it is the Committee’s recommendation that all elements be included in the Gross Description. Microscopic sampling can also be institution dependent, but the Committee recommends broad histologic evaluation for autopsies.

## References

## Fyfe-Kirschner B and Miller DK. The future of autopsy reporting: data repository and research support. In: Hooper and Williamson, editors. *Autopsy in the 21st Century: Best Practices and Future Ideas.* Switzerland: Springer;2019. 39-56.

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## Hanzlick R. The autopsy lexicon: suggested headings for autopsy reports. In: Collins K, editor. *Autopsy Performance and Reporting.* 3rd ed. Chicago: CAP Press;2017. 377-382.