NURSING HOMES OR HOSPICE

These instructions are written specifically for nursing homes or hospice. Please give this information to the nursing home or hospice in advance, if possible, so that questions can be answered to facilitate brain donation. Please place this document in the nursing home or hospice chart.

The family of _______________________ has given permission for a brain autopsy and tissue donation to be conducted as part of a research program at the Virginia Commonwealth University Parkinson’s Disease Center. The vital role of the nursing home or hospice in the brain autopsy program is to assist the family at the time of death and provide the Center with medical information needed by the Pathologist.

BRAIN AUTOPSY PROCEDURES

1. When the donor passes away, please contact the family as soon as possible so that transportation and the brain autopsy can be coordinated with the family.

2. The funeral home, a family member or friend should notify the BTRF Coordinator at 804-828-9664 or 804-484-5367 or the Pathology Assistant at (804) 828-0558 that the donor has passed away. In some cases, the family may request that a member of your staff place this call. If you should reach our voicemail, please leave a message and the Coordinator will return your call. It is not necessary to call between 4 pm and 8 am, since autopsies are conducted Monday through Friday between 8 am and 2 pm.

3. The funeral home, selected by the family, will transport the body from your facility to Virginia Commonwealth University Hospital (VCUH) for the brain autopsy. Please assist the funeral home as needed in locating your facility and loading the body for transport.

4. The Pathology Assistant will contact a member of your staff to ask a few questions regarding the donor’s medical condition at the time of death and in the two weeks prior to death. Please assist us in obtaining this information by providing the name and phone number of a contact person on your staff who is familiar with the case.
Please note: VCUH will NOT provide a death certificate. Please assist us in working with the family to verify that a family physician will be providing a death certificate. We cannot obtain tissue without a signed death certificate.

Please contact the BTRF Coordinator at 804-828-9664 or PDCBTRF@VCUHEALTH.ORG with any questions.

Virginia Commonwealth University Parkinson’s & Movement Disorders Center