



## Autopsy

If your baby passes away, you may want to request that an autopsy is done. This can provide you with some answers about your baby and their diagnosis. It can also give you information from medical professionals which may be useful for future pregnancies.

### Some things to consider:

- You can request a full or a partial autopsy. If you do choose a partial autopsy (i.e., you select only certain areas of the body that are to be included), please be aware that your results may be limited.
- The results can be overwhelming and many pages long. There are things on the autopsy that only medical professionals are likely to understand. If you have any questions or concerns, ask your doctor to explain.
- Sometimes the results may not provide the answers that you had hoped for. Sometimes they can have more information or less information than you had expected.
- When you receive the results in the mail, have someone close by so that you are not reading them alone. They can be upsetting and overwhelming at times.
- It can take from 6 weeks up to 12 months to get any results from an autopsy. This can be frustrating for families who just want answers. You can phone the hospital, but unfortunately they are not always able to give you a definite timeline on when the results will be available.
- Be sure that your address and current doctor details are kept up to date with the hospital, so that the results can get to you as quickly as possible.