The NSW Perinatal Postmortem Service should be contacted to support the referral process where a decision had been made that a family would benefit from a postmortem examination of their deceased unregistered, stillborn baby, or deceased neonate.

Ideally, the referring clinician should notify the Perinatal Postmortem Service Care Coordinator as soon as possible upon diagnosis or presentation of a potential case.

**Process**


- Advise the Service Care Coordinator of the potential referral and follow referral instructions. You will find contact details for the Coordinator under *Referrers* on the internet page.

- Ensure a senior treating clinician, midwife and social worker explains the process and benefit of a postmortem examination with the family and obtains consent

  **Note:** In some circumstances, it may be beneficial to include the Care Coordinator or perinatal pathologist in family or clinician discussions during the decision-making process. They can assist by providing information, reassurance and support to the family, as well as clarifying the examination focus. Discuss this option with the Care Coordinator.

- Complete the required documentation.

**Note:**

- Babies for postmortem can remain with their family post-birth where the baby is kept in a cold cot or intermittently refrigerated. Cold cots should be utilised where possible and it is recommended that babies for postmortem do not remain out of mortuary refrigeration for more than eight hours (12 hours in a cold cot)

- All referrals to the Perinatal Postmortem Service, including night and weekend referrals, are to be made as per the instructions on the internet page. Referrals will be attended to daily or on the next available business day

- Babies for postmortem who were born after-hours or on weekends can remain with their family in the birth unit. If the family has returned home, package and store baby and placenta in mortuary as per protocol (refer to packaging guide) until transportation arrives

- Send the required documentation with baby and placenta

- Transport to Pathology is arranged by the referring hospital. The Care Coordinator is available to assist with identifying transport options and booking transport.
Postmortem Referral Guide
NSW Perinatal Postmortem Service (February 2019)

Key contact information

Service Care Coordinator (business hours, Monday to Friday)

- Susi Guinane
  - NSWPATH-PerinatalPostMortemService@health.nsw.gov.au
  - 0436 698 366 (try mobile first)
  - (02) 9845 3503

On Call Pathologists

The Children's Hospital, Westmead

- (02) 9845 0000 (Phone switch and ask to be transferred to the on-call pathologist)

John Hunter Hospital

- (02) 4921 3000 (Phone switch and ask to be transferred Dr Ella Sugo)

Prince of Wales Hospital

- (02) 9382 2222 (Phone switch and ask to be transferred to the on-call pathologist)