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|  | Title : Disposal of unidentified foetal remains | Author: G. Cockerill | Date: 2/Oct/2012 |
| | No: SOP_R9 | New Author: P. Madhou | Date: 1/Sept/2024 |
| | Version: 6 | | Review Date March 2026 |




**SOP R9: DISPOSAL OF UNIDENTIFIED FOETAL
REMAINS**

Disclaimer

When using this document, please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by checking on the CITY SGUL/PORTAL/HTA website for any new versions or contact the HTA coordinator to confirm the current version.

Out of date documents must not be relied upon and should be destroyed.

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|------------|---------------|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6 | Sept 2024 | City merge, review and formatting | AS/PM | HTLRG |
| 5 | Sept 2023 | New DI, update contacts & formatting | AS | HTLRG |
| 5 | Sept 2022 | New DI, Add PD & Review | AS | HTLRG |
| 4 | August 2020 | Reviewed (Section 5.3 added) | AS | HTLRG |
| 3 | March 2018 | Reviewed & Amended (New Author) | AS | PL |
| 3 | July 2017 | Reviewed and PD contact details updated | AS | PL |
| 3 | July 2017 | Reference to HTA codes updated | PL | HTLRG |
| 3 | July 2017 | Reviewed and PD contact details | PL | HTLRG |
| 2 | Dec 2016 | Update contact list | AS | PL |
| 2 | Oct 2016 | DI change details | AS | MF |
| 2 | March 2016 | Issued for use | GC | HTLRG |
| 1 | November 2012 | Issued for use | GC | HTLRG |
| 0 | October 2012 | Issued for discussion | GC | |
| Rev | Date | Amendment | Approved by | Authorised by |

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1. Purpose/Background

1.1 This SOP describes the procedure for the disposal of existing holdings of unidentifiable foetal remains. The Human Tissue Act 2004 (HT Act) makes no distinction between the disposal of pregnancy remains and the disposal of other tissue from a living person.

1.2 This procedure has been developed to comply with the Human Tissue Authority (HTA) Code of Practice 5: Removal, Storage, and Disposal of Human Organs and Tissue, and the Guidance on the Disposal of Pregnancy Remains Following Pregnancy Loss or Termination (issued March 2015).

1.3 This SOP does not cover the disposal of other identifiable but unclaimed human tissue and organs. Such procedures are covered in other SOPs. This SOP specifically addresses the arrangements for the audit of records and materials held by SGUL under HTA Research Licence 12335.

2. Scope

2.1 This SOP relates only to activities covered by HTA Licence 12335 (Storage of relevant material which has come from a human body for a scheduled purpose).

3. Responsibilities

3.1 The responsibility for ensuring that the provisions of this SOP are adhered to lies with the Persons Responsible (PRs) identified as being responsible for each collection covered by the licence.

4. Procedure

4.1 Transport the foetal remains to St George's NHS Mortuary.

4.2 Record the details of the foetal material disposed of in the disposal database, including the reason for disposal and the date of disposal.


4.3 Ensure that the foetal remains are buried according to St George's NHS procedures.

5. Related Documents

5.1 Anatomy Department, SGUL SOP A2v2: Procedure for Disposal of Old Prosections and Retained Body Parts.

5.2 Pathology Museum Disposal Form (Anatomy_v1.1).

5.3 Disposal of Human Tissue Material by Medical Research Council (MRC) (Jan 2019 Ver 2) [MRC-301121-ResearchHumanTissueAct2004-DisposalSummary.pdf \(ukri.org\)](https://www.ukri.org/research-licences/hta-licences/hta-licence-12335-research-human-tissue-material-disposal-summary/)

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6. References

6.1 Human Tissue Authority Codes of Practice.

[Codes of Practice | Human Tissue Authority \(hta.gov.uk\)](https://www.hta.gov.uk/codes-of-practice)

6.2 Guidance on the Disposal of Pregnancy Remains (issued 2015).

[Guidance on the disposal of pregnancy remains \(hta.gov.uk\)](https://www.hta.gov.uk/guidance-on-the-disposal-of-pregnancy-remains)

6.3 Directions Given Under the Human Tissue Act 2004: 001/2006, 002/2007 & 002/2018.

[Directions 002-2018.pdf \(hta.gov.uk\)](https://www.hta.gov.uk/directions-002-2018.pdf)

7. Amendment of SOPs

7.1 If, in the course of applying this document, the user identifies a modification that would improve this document, please bring the suggested changes to the attention of the Person Designated (PD) so that amendments can be reviewed and implemented.

15. Contacts DIs and PDs

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