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Post-Mortem Report Interpretation and Case Log

Practical 03 / Clinical or documentation case

Aim

Review a set of supervised or simulated post-mortem reports and document evidence and limitations.

Principle

A post-mortem opinion integrates circumstances, identification, examination and ancillary results. A single finding may be nonspecific and cause and manner are distinct questions.

Materials and Requirements

- Fifteen fictional or authorised teaching summaries
- Case review log and anatomical diagrams

Procedure

1. Record authorisation, identifiers, chronology and the type of examination from each supplied report.
2. Create fifteen numbered rows and record case source, authority, identity status and date in each. Establish which examinations and ancillary results are included in the teaching pack.
3. Summarise external and internal findings objectively from the records and state which samples or ancillary reports were available.
4. Read the narrative before assigning an opinion. Enter significant external and internal findings by site and system, then mark collection, investigation or treatment details provided by the case.

Continue with step 5 on the next page.

Procedure Continued

Post-Mortem Report Interpretation and Case Log

5. Separate reported circumstances from examination evidence. Mark any missing view, incomplete examination or pending ancillary result in a dedicated field and retain the original observation language.
6. Review 15 varied reports in the log, including natural cardiovascular, respiratory, infection and metabolic cases, accident or injury cases, and cases with pending or uncertain evidence.
7. Compare the different case groups and state how the evidence supports or weakens each reported sequence. Use the natural, injury and complex practice sheets alongside the main log.
8. For each, state what supports the opinion and what remains pending. Practise one concise explanation for an examiner.
9. Submit the entire teaching log for review, explaining one supported opinion and one pending opinion. Document feedback, the review date and any follow-up that could resolve uncertainty.

Precautions

- Use records or authorised observation only.
- Avoid causal overstatement and preserve dignity and confidentiality.

Observations and Interpretation

Post-Mortem Report Interpretation and Case Log

Observations and Record

Item	What to record	What it tells you
Case log	Case number, scenario and records available	Tracks distinct cases
Findings	External, internal and ancillary results	Supports a structured report review
Opinion	Cause basis and uncertainty	Separates evidence from inference

Worked Example

A fictional unexpected death is reported before toxicology is available. Record descriptive findings and explain why the final opinion may remain pending.

Result and Interpretation

Complete a dated 15-case teaching log with reviews by case. Actual institutional certification requires faculty sign-off.

Viva Questions and Answers

Why distinguish provisional and final opinions?

New evidence can affect the final supported conclusion.

Does one finding settle manner of death?

The relevant circumstances and authorised investigation must be considered.

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