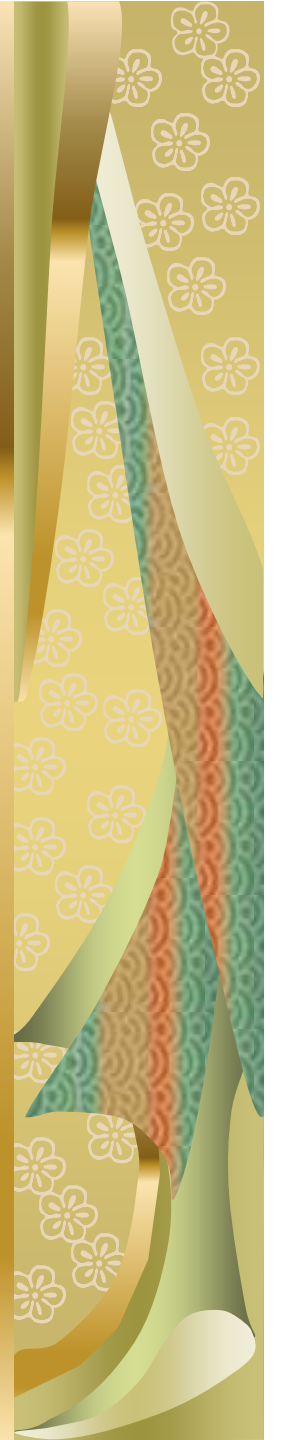


Infection Prevention and Control - Mortuaries

ELCT Health Department
Quality Assurance











■ Environmental considerations:

- Ample ventilation
- Adequate running water supply
- Excellent drainage system to thoroughly wash away remnants of blood and bloody fluids generated during post-mortem examinations

■ Personal Protective Equipment for attendant, doctors and other workers:

- Thick gloves, aprons, footwear, masks and eye protection

■ Equipment:

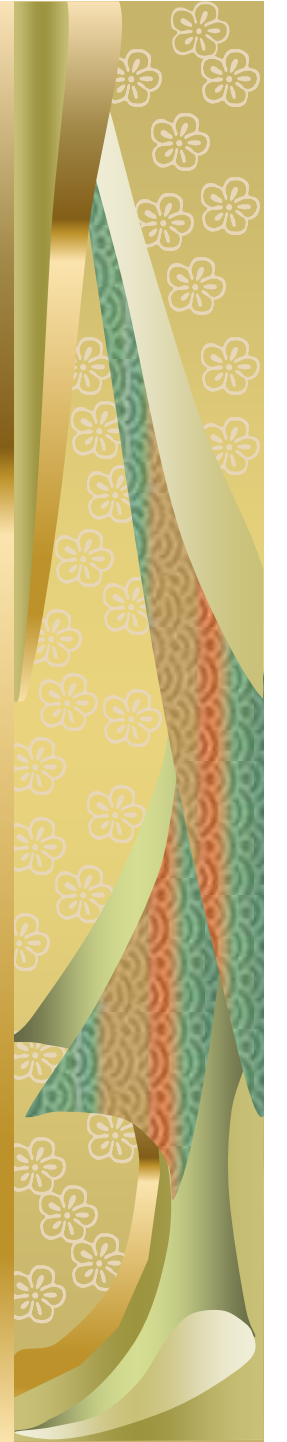
- All instruments should be soaked in a phenolic 3 % disinfectant or chlorine before processing them and autoclaving.



- Chlorine based disinfectants are to be strictly avoided because post-mortem rooms contain formaline which reacts with chlorine to generate a strong carcinogen bis-chloroether!!!!
- HIV virus lives 5 days in dead tissues and even longer at 4 'C.
- HBV survives 6 months, HCV for several weeks after drying up surfaces of objects. Thus post-mortem rooms are hazardous if not disinfected properly









- Floors and walls must be washed with a detergent in the first wash, to be followed by **phenolic disinfectant**
- Surfaces, tables, dissecting surfaces etc: Wash with detergent and hot water to remove organic matter. Rinse dry. Wipe with 3 % phenol
- Hands: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry irrespective of whether gloves are worn. **Always wash hands before leaving post-mortem room!!!!**



