

# ACCESS TO PERINATAL AUTOPSY: BARRIERS RELATED TO CLINICAL STAFF

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# TWO MAIN PROBLEMS

- Clinicians get consent from the families for autopsy\*, but they are not the ones performing the procedure
- Patients often talk to their nurses more than they talk to their doctors, but nurses also don't know about autopsy

\* know the rules at your institution

# MOST COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

- Cost
  - Misconception – autopsy cost is billed to family
  - Truth – autopsy is FREE to family\* \*always know the rules at your institution
- Incisions
  - Misconception – an open casket funeral cannot be performed after autopsy
  - Truth – none of the incisions made at autopsy, including the head incision, can be seen when the body is clothed; an open casket funeral can be held normally

# HOW WE'VE ADDRESSED THESE PROBLEMS

- Lectures, grand rounds, etc to various clinician groups about autopsy
  - Cost
  - Incisions
  - Timing
  - What information can be obtained
- Handouts for L&D nursing staff