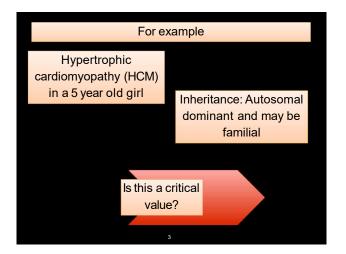
Critical Value Reporting: The Need ToDevelop Appropriate Communication Channels

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Critical values

May be defined as any result OF a coronial postmortem examination (PME) that:

PROMPTS expeditious testing/monitoring of the decedents relatives MUST be rapidly communicated to the next of kin (NOK)

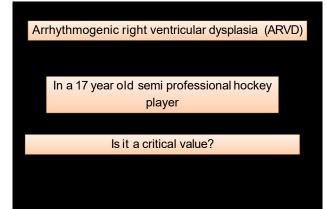


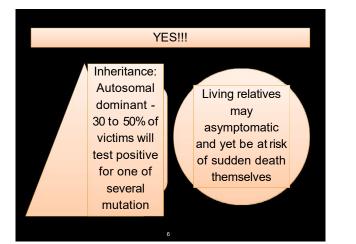


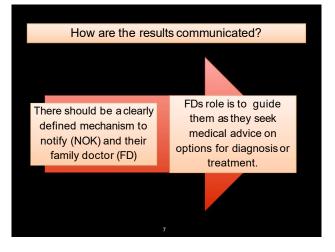
YES!!!

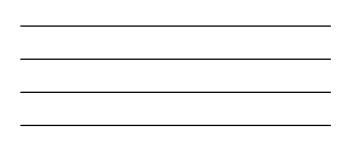
Living relatives may be asymptomatic but carry the same gene

And therefore be at risk of sudden death themselves!!

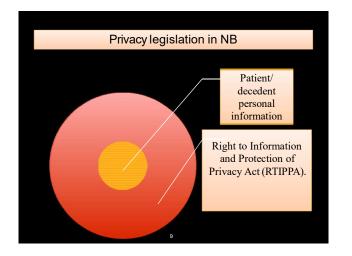










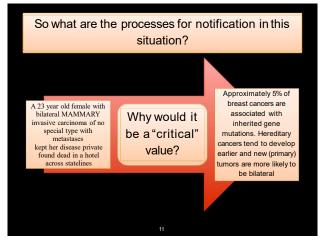




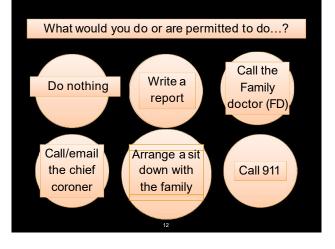
RTIPPA

Under the act, "personal information about individuals held by public institutions is well protected and handled only in accordance with generally accepted privacy principles"

The NB coroner's office is part of the Department of Public Safety, and therefore subject to RTIPPA.









Limitations of the Act

FORENSIC PATHOLOGIST IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONTACT FAMILY DIRECTLY

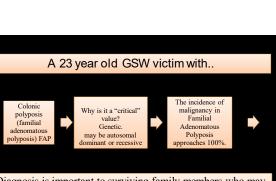
The FDs do not have an automatic right to know when a patient registered in their practice dies

F D does not have an automatic right to know the cause or manner of death.

ONLY The NOK can authorize the coroner to distribute copies of the postmortem report to the FD.

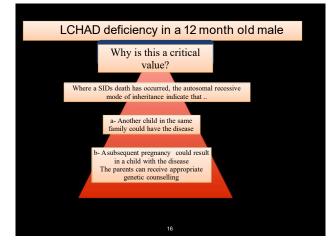
MAXIMIZING the forensic pathologists role





Diagnosis is important to surviving family members who may carry the gene, regardless of the traumatic cause of death







"Not-so" critical values

- Ischemic coronary artery disease in a 75 year old male
- Enlarged yellow fatty liver with gallstones in a middle aged alcoholic male
- A surgically absent spleen in a 20 yo female s/p remote mva
 Unusually tall, with long limbs in 28 yo male in the absence
- of other stigmata of Marfans ("pigeon" chest, aortic dilation or dissection, mitral valve prolapse)

Why they ARE not LIKELY TO be deemed critical

- Is there a danger of sudden death from an inherited condition?
- Is there a danger that an infectious disease has been transmitted?
- Is there a potentially fatal environmental condition that would require monitoring/investigation

In sum Identify with "stakeholders" what critical values for your jurisdiction should be. Reach a consensus (ensures buy-in Discuss with stake holders what the communication process should be- PREVENTS "we did not know" SCENARIOS Develop and update an SOP that includes notification protocols Test them !!!



References

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