

NHS England Policy Criteria for perinatal post mortem examination

Perinatal pathological examination will be commissioned in England, Scotland and Wales in line with the following criteria:

Inclusion Criteria

- Fetus is of 12-23 completed weeks gestation (See workflow guidance Appendix 1 for approach to macerated vs. unmacerated); OR
- Stillbirth from any cause > 24 weeks gestation; OR
- Fetal anomaly without a unifying diagnosis (including suspected skeletal dysplasia); OR
- Referral from specialist fetal medicine team; OR
- Intra partum death (if not referred to His Majesty's (HM) Coroner); OR
- Neonatal death (if not referred to HM Coroner)

Exclusion Criteria

- Fetal gestation < 12 weeks
- Clinically documented abruption at delivery (send placenta as per RCPATH G108 guidelines)
- All antenatally diagnosed aneuploidy (e.g., Known T13/18/21 monosomy X/22q deletion)
- Uncomplicated anomaly where the unifying clinical and/or genetic diagnosis has been definitively determined (e.g., uncomplicated neural tube defect) and post-mortem examination is unlikely to yield any further useful information
- Cases where the only clinical question is determination of sex
- Cases which require cytogenetic sampling only