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AMERICAN BOARD OF PATHOLOGY Policy for Fetal Autopsies Effective for 2013 Examination

1. Definition – A fetal autopsy is one that is performed on a fetus dying in-utero or born dead.
2. For a fetal autopsy to satisfy the autopsy requirement of the American Board of Pathology, the following criteria must apply:
 - * There must be an autopsy consent signed for a complete autopsy. This is not the same as an anatomic disposal.
 - * The fetus must be intact.
 - * Examination of the placenta must be part of the autopsy report.
3. No more than a total of 5 fetal autopsies that have no anatomic, congenital, infectious, or genetic abnormalities (Final Anatomic Diagnosis = intra-uterine fetal demise) can count toward the 50 required autopsy cases.
4. No more than 2 fetal autopsies on macerated fetuses can count toward the 50 required autopsy cases.

Residents planning to take the 2013 examination, whose autopsy numbers will be negatively affected by this new policy should take steps to ensure they will meet the requirement for 50 autopsies by the deadline for receipt of applications for the 2013 exam (January 15, 2013 for spring exam, May 15, 2013 for fall exam).