Western Cape Government

TBH Obstetrics & Gynaecology

TYGERGBERG HOSPITAL
Medical Genetics
Clinical Genetics & Genetic Counselling
021 938 4638

SOP: Genetic Assessment Workflow for Fetuses Following Perinatal Loss or Pregnancy Termination

1. PURPOSE

To outline a clear, standardised process for referral, examination, documentation, and investigation of fetuses of any gestation requiring Medical Genetics assessment following MTOP, miscarriage, IUFD, or stillbirth.

2. SCOPE

Applies to all clinical areas at Tygerberg Hospital involved in perinatal loss or MTOP where a Genetics review is indicated, for all gestational ages and referral pathways outlined below.

3. INDICATIONS FOR GENETICS REVIEW

Medical Genetics review is indicated in the following circumstances:

3.1 FMU-Flagged Fetuses

Antenatally identified cases requiring Genetics evaluation (MTOP, miscarriage, IUFD, stillbirth). Astria documentation should accompany referrals.

3.2 Non-FMU Fetuses Noted to Be Dysmorphic

Any gestation where dysmorphic/anomalous features are identified post-delivery, with no prior FMU involvement or Astria documentation.

All cases require referral via Vula.

4. PRINCIPLES OF CARE

- Ensure ethical, professional, and medico-legal standards.
- Maintain parental consent, confidentiality, and respectful fetal handling.
- The Genetics team will conduct the examination, determine specific further investigations, and document findings.

5. REFERRAL PROCEDURE

5.1 Referral via Vula

All cases must be referred to Medical Genetics using the Vula platform.

The referral must include the mother's full name, surname, date of birth, and Tygerberg Hospital (TBH) number.

FMU-Flagged Cases

For cases flagged by FMU, relevant Astria notes must be attached. The Vula referral description should state:
"Fetus to be seen by Genetics as requested."

Non-FMU Cases with Dysmorphism

For cases not known to FMU, no Astria notes will be available. The Vula referral description must clearly document the dysmorphic features observed and the clinical reason for requesting a Genetics review.

6. BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION

Where indicated, skin biopsy samples will be collected by the Medical Genetics team at the time of fetal examination, unless alternative instructions are documented.

7. CLINICAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Clinical photography is applicable **only in cases where the fetus was not known to FMU and dysmorphic** features are identified post-delivery.

- Obtain verbal maternal consent.
- Take standardised facial and full-body images.
- Upload images to Vula and delete immediately from the device.

8. PERINATAL LOSS DATA SHEET

- Complete the **front page** for all cases (MTOP, miscarriage, IUFD, stillbirth) – if for genetic review, the subminimum weight of 500g does NOT apply.
- Place completed form in the **C2AW Labour Ward Genetics drawer**.
- Genetics team completes the **back page**, provides a copy to Obstetric administration, records findings on Astria, and files the original in the Genetics Fetus File.

9. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORD KEEPING

Maintain complete records, including:

- Vula referral
- Astria entries (when applicable)
- Perinatal Loss Data Sheet
- Genetics Fetus File

AUTHORISED BY	S Moosa, C van Tonder. This SOP is governed by the Medical Genetics Department at Tygerberg Hospital.
COMPILED BY	S Moosa, C van Tonder
COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	S Moosa, C van Tonder, S Gebhardt, L de Waard, D Mason
DATE EFFECTIVE	January 2026
REVIEW DATE	January 2028

Signed: GS Gebhardt 

Head: General Specialist Services; Obstetrics and Gynaecology