

The seal of the Defense Health Board is a circular emblem. It features a central figure of a caduceus (a staff with two snakes entwined around it and wings at the top) superimposed on a map of the United States. The words "DEFENSE" and "HEALTH BOARD" are written in a circular path around the top and bottom respectively. Two five-pointed stars are positioned on the left and right sides of the inner circle.

**Categorizing Biological Agents In Post Mortem  
Risk Groups  
Work Group Update**

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Work Group Lead**

Defense Health Board

22 August 2012



# Overview

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- Work Group Membership
- Study Charge
- Meetings and Briefings
- Way Ahead



# Work Group Membership

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Ad Hoc Group of DHB Members--

- Dr. George Anderson (Lead)
- Dr. M. Ross Bullock
- Dr. David Hovda
- Dr. Dennis O'Leary



# Study Charge

## Part 1 of 2

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**Seeks to obtain the DHB's concurrence with:**

1. Definition of exposure risk postmortem
2. Categorization of postmortem risk groups
3. Use of specific non-weapons of mass destruction bio agents as comparative and benchmark agents
4. Prioritization of future postmortem research involving bio agents



# Study Charge

## Part 2 of 2

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**Seeks to obtain the DHB's concurrence with:**

5. Recommendation that bio agents scoring lower than all benchmark agents do not require any additional packaging to safely transport decedents to and through the US

6. Recommendation that bio agents categorized as Risk Group 3 for Transporters do not require any additional packaging to safely transport decedents to and through the US

7. Transporters that handle biologically contaminated decedents that are packaged are not required to wear anything addition than the Standard Precautions for contact hazards



# Meetings and Briefings

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- Kick off Meeting 26 June 2012
  - Reviewed and accepted Terms of Reference
  
- Meeting 20 August 2012



# Way Ahead

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- **Next Steps**
  - Receive briefings from SMEs
  - Review literature and assess best practices
  - Present draft recommendation report to DHB in November?



# Questions

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