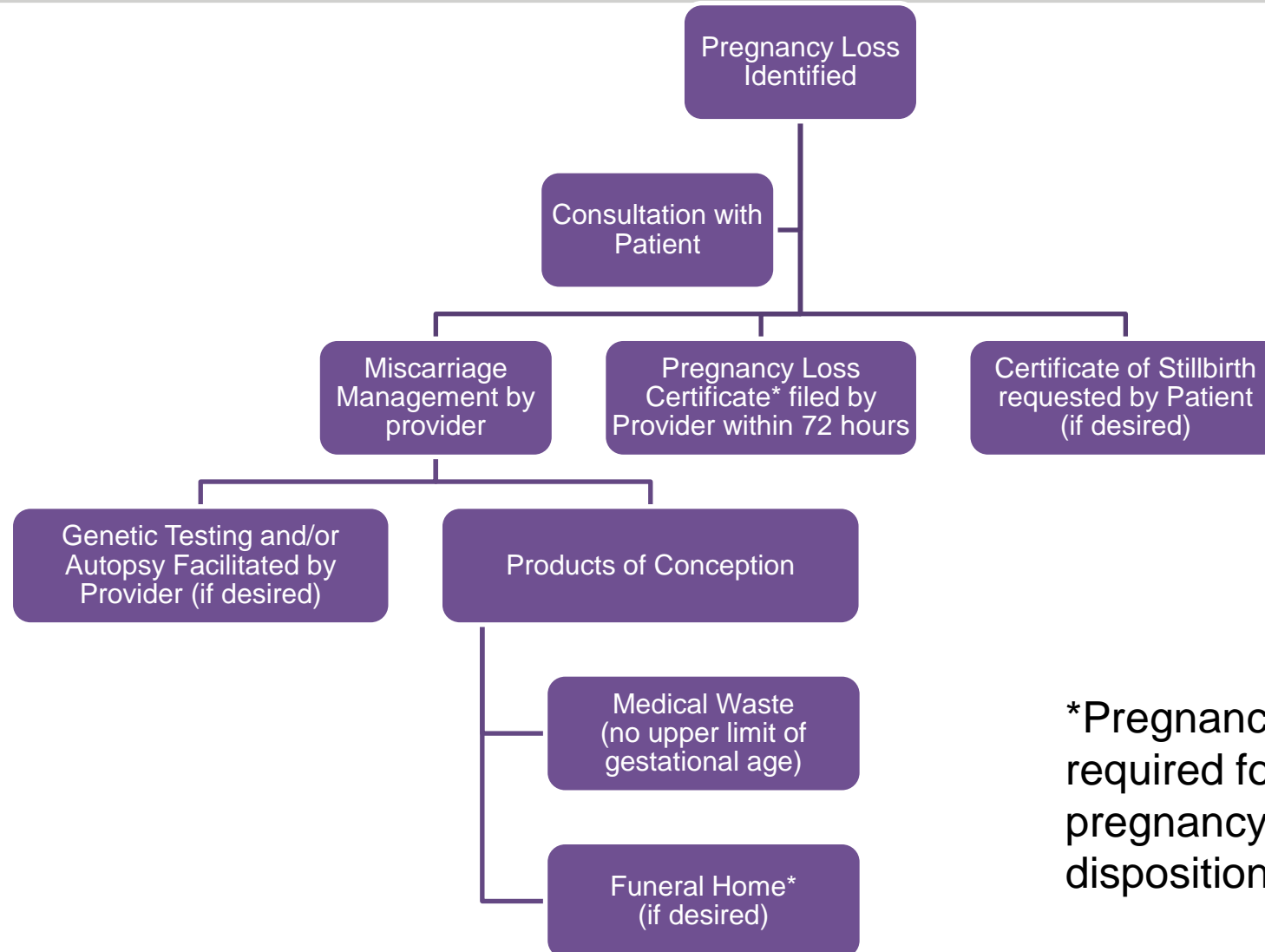


PREGNANCY LOSS WORKFLOW



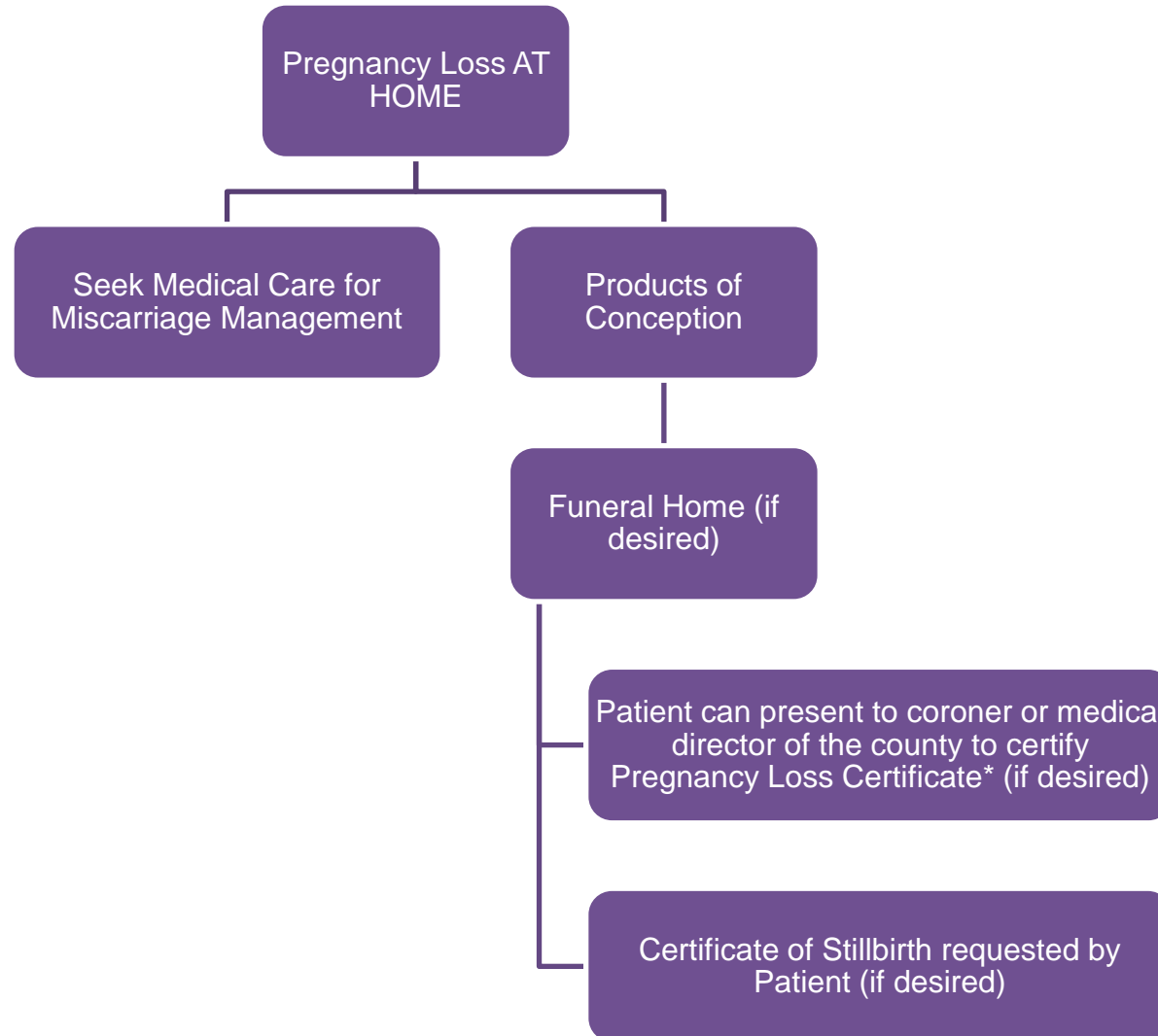
Department
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PREGNANCY LOSS – SPONTANEOUS IN A HEALTHCARE FACILITY



*Pregnancy Loss Certificate is required for spontaneous pregnancy losses **and** for disposition to a funeral home

PREGNANCY LOSS – SPONTANEOUS OUTSIDE A HEALTHCARE FACILITY

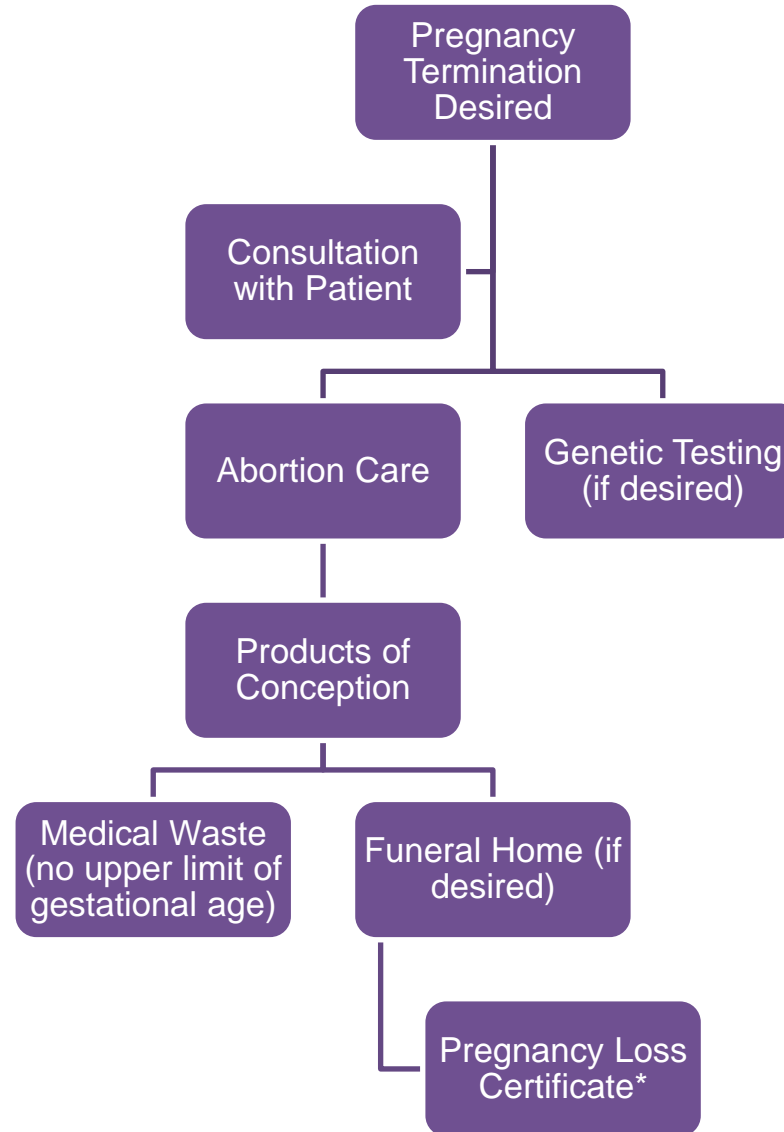


*[Under PHL 4161](#), nothing in this section shall provide the coroner, medical director, or medical examiner with the authority to investigate an individual who experienced a pregnancy loss



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PREGNANCY LOSS - INDUCED



*Pregnancy Loss Certificates are only issued in induced terminations when patients would like disposition to a funeral home



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FORMS

- **Q:** Where do I find the **Pregnancy Loss Certificate**?
- **A:** The Department is developing new dedicated forms and procedures for reporting pregnancy losses. Providers should continue reporting *qualifying* pregnancy losses using the established fetal death and induced termination of pregnancy forms. The forms can be obtained through your local registrar of vital records.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FORMS

- **Q:** What is a **Fetal Death Certificate**?
- **A:** This is an outdated form. The Pregnancy Loss Certificate replaces the Fetal Death Certificate [under PHL 4161](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FORMS

- **Q:** What is the **Certificate of Still Birth?**
- **A:** This is a separate form for spontaneous miscarriages over 20 weeks that is available at the patient's request [under PHL 4160-a](#). The legislative history on the Certificate of Stillbirth provision in the Public Health Law indicates that its intended purpose was to address religious sensitivities related to pregnancy loss.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

MEDICATION ABORTION

- **Q:** My clinic only performs medication abortions. Are there any forms we need to fill out?
- **A:** No. However, if the patient desires a funeral or other service that would require disposition to a funeral home, and the termination happened at home, the coroner or medical examiners office in the county can complete the Pregnancy Loss Certificate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FETAL REMAINS

- **Q:** Are fetal remains over 20 weeks required to be released to a funeral home?
- **A:** No, fetal remains at any point in pregnancy can be designated as regulated medical waste if the patient does not desire the remains to be released to a funeral home.
- **Q:** If the pregnancy is under 20 weeks, can fetal remains still be released to a funeral home?
- **A:** Yes, with a Pregnancy Loss Certificate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ITOP

- **Q:** What is the role of the ITOP (Induced Termination of Pregnancy) form?
- **A:** The ITOP form is not legally required for an Induced Termination of Pregnancy. A Pregnancy Loss Certificate would be required if the patient desires the fetal remains be transferred to a funeral home

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DEATH CERTIFICATE

- **Q:** Is the Pregnancy Loss Certificate a Death Certificate?
- **A:** No, they are separate and different.
- **Q:** How would a patient obtain a Death Certificate for a Pregnancy Loss if a Pregnancy Loss Certificate was filed?
- **A:** Death certificates are not issued in these instances. A Certificate of Stillbirth can be issued if a stillbirth occurs over 20 weeks or the Pregnancy Loss Certificate can serve as documentation of a loss.



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