St. John's Medical College - Digital Autopsy Report

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Medicolegal autopsies performed at our institution since 2001, have been rapidly increasing in numbers, with each passing year. In 2020, the department of Forensic Medicine performed 735 autopsies. All the autopsy reports are prepared in duplicate – the Original Report is given to the Investigating Officer and the Office Copy is retained indefinitely in the department. There is a huge collection of hard copy reports which is maintained in the department for safe keeping as per statutory requirement. However, this copy is prone to damage by water, fire, insects, pests and other time related factors. This led us to scout for a dependable, comprehensive system to store the autopsy reports electronically in a safe and secure manner, allowing for easy retrieval, for various purposes.

PalmPower India Handheld Applications Private Limited, designed and developed an app-based solution for this purpose which works on a 10 inch. Tablet. The post-mortem reports are directly entered onto the Tab based app. where the findings are either handwritten using a stylus or typed in on the keyboard, which is then converted to digital text. The reports are then saved on a server maintained in the Datacenter at the institution. In addition to the report, body diagrams, photographs of findings, scene of incident photographs, requisition for post-mortem from the investigating officer, relevant case records, histopathology examination report, chemical analysis report, microbiological report, etc. are also saved using this app.

We have been using this app since 25th November 2020, generating about 200+ reports, till date. We have been in talks with the creators of the app regarding ways of improving and customizing the product to best suit our needs. They have taken our input and swiftly modified the product to

meet our requirements, thus making it easier to use. This solution was officially launched at the Institution on 15th March 2021.

With the implementation of this product we are able to ensure large volumes of data are stored safely and can be assessed easily and securely. The post-mortem report is generated in a faster and more efficient manner, reducing the average time spent on preparing a report. The printed format makes the report more legible and neater, which has gained appreciation from the investigating officers, relatives of deceased, and in court of law. There is also the advantage of having a huge collection of data for future research, made available by the click of a button. We hope this product makes significant contribution to the standards of our post-mortem reporting and would prove to be a valuable tool in the upcoming days.