Account from Dr. Mitchell Levy the Primary physician who attended to His Holiness the 16th Karmapa

"People there—the hospital staff as well as visitors—were just completely overwhelmed by him. Most of them were Christian, and none of them knew the first thing about Buddhism, but they had no hesitancy whatever in calling him His Holiness. They never once said, 'Karmapa,' it was always 'His Holiness.' The staff couldn't stop talking about his compassion and about how kind he seemed. After four or five days, the surgeon—a Filipino Christian—kept saying to me, 'You know, His Holiness is not an ordinary man. He really doesn't seem like an ordinary person.' Just the force of his will and his presence were so powerful, that [everybody was] completely taken with it.

"… early on the day he actually died, we saw that his monitor had changed. The electrical impulses through his heart had altered in a way that indicated that it was starting to fail. And so we knew, the surgeons knew, that something was imminent…Then his heart stopped for about ten seconds. We resuscitated him, had a little trouble with his blood pressure, brought it back up, and then he was stable for about twenty-five minutes, thirty minutes, but it looked like he had had a heart attack. Then his blood pressure dropped all the way down. We couldn't get it back up at all with medication. And we kept working, giving him medication, and then his heart stopped again. And so then we had to start pumping his chest and then, at that point, I knew that this was it. Because you could just see his heart dying in front of you on the monitor. But I felt that we needed to demonstrate our thoroughness as much as we could, to reassure the Rinpoche's. So I kept the resuscitation going for almost forty-five minutes, much longer than I normally would have. Finally, I gave him two amps of intra-cardiac epinephrine and adrenaline and there was no response. Calcium. No response. So we stopped and this was the point at which we finally gave up. I went outside to make the call to Trungpa Rinpoche to tell him that His Holiness had died. After that, I came back into the room, and people were starting to leave. By this time, His Holiness had been lying there for maybe fifteen minutes, and we started to take out the NG tube, and… all of a sudden I look and his blood pressure is 140 over 80. And my first instinct, I shouted out, 'Who's leaning on the pressure monitor?' … Because I knew that for pressure to go up like that, someone would have to be leaning on it with… well, it wouldn't be possible.

"Then a nurse almost literally screamed, 'He's got a good pulse! He's got a good pulse!' "… His Holiness' heart rate was 80 and his blood pressure was 140 over 80, and there was this moment in that room where I thought that I was going to pass out. And no one said a word. There was literally a moment of 'This can't be. This can't be.' A lot had happened with His Holiness, but this was clearly the most miraculous thing I had seen… This was not just an extraordinary event. This would have been an hour after his heart had stopped and fifteen minutes after we had stopped doing anything …"To me, in that room, it had the feeling

that His Holiness was coming back to check one more time: could his body support his consciousness?… Just the force of his consciousness coming back started the whole thing up again—I mean, this is just my simple-minded impression, but this is what it actually felt like, in that room."

His Holiness remained meditating in his hospital bed for three days after he died. This is an account from Dr. Ranulfo Sanchez, Chief of Surgery.

"They brought me into the room about 36 hours after he died. I felt the area right over his heart, and it was warmer then the surrounding area. Its something for which there is no medical explanation… Medically this is unheard of; the nurses were all white. One of them lifted her sleeve to show me her arm, covered in goose bumps."

Again Dr. Levy

"..the surgeon came out and said, 'He's warm. He's warm.' And then… the nursing staff was saying, 'Is he still warm?' After all that had happened, they just accepted it. As much as all that had happened might have gone against their medical training, their cultural beliefs, and their religious upbringing, by this point they had no trouble just accepting what was actually occurring."