



**Supplemental Figure 2.** Representative diagnostic procedure flowchart analyzed by pathologists for determining the causes of death (77-year-old male with pulmonary emphysema, Group 2).

The pathologists made a flowchart of the pathogenesis in each patient according to the antemortem clinical information (blue) and autopsy findings (orange). Then, they investigated the most critical procedure of the disease progression, and determined the underlying cause of death\*, intermediate cause of death\*\*, and immediate cause of death\*\*\*. In this case, the immediate cause of death was clinically diagnosed as nephrotic syndrome\*\*\*\*, however, the final cause of death was revised as respiratory failure due to bronchopneumonia by the pathologists. COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease