

Name:

Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Forum – Data Collection and Reporting

Medical Facility processes and policies for death certificate completion:

1. Who drives the process of completing a death certificate from the point a patient passes away until it is registered with the State? How is the process of completing the death certificate handled from start to finish?
2. What is your facility's internal process for completing cause of death statements on death certificates? Does your facility have a standardized process?
3. Are medical records considered when determining a cause of death? If so, how?
4. What training is available to physicians to determine causes of death? How widely available is this training?
5. What other challenges are involved in writing cause of death statements on death certificates?
6. How does your facility communicate with funeral homes? What role does a funeral home play in influencing the cause of death statement?
7. How does a medical facility inform its physicians of the manners of death in which they would certify a death versus a Medical Examiner or Justice of the Peace?
8. What is the medical facility's procedure for referring a death to a Medical Examiner or Justice of the Peace?
9. How/what factors does a physician use to determine if a death is related to a pregnancy?
10. How does a physician determine if a woman was pregnant?
11. Are prenatal records considered when determining a death was related to pregnancy?
12. If a mother passes away and her OB-GYN was the last physician she whose care she was under, is it often assumed the pregnancy influenced her death?

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TER/Electronic Issues:

1. Do doctors or nurses/clerks complete the data entry on the record?
2. Is TER a deterrent to doctors properly submitting causes of death?
3. Are there other electronic barriers keeping doctors from submitting causes of death?

Questions to discuss together (time permitting):

1. Do different medical facilities diagnose pregnancy-related deaths at different rates? For example, do hospitals diagnose pregnancy-related deaths more often than OB-GYNs?
2. Do some doctors assert a death as pregnancy-related more than others? What factors lead to this discrepancy?
3. Are different types of medical certifiers (e.g. doctors, medical examiners, justices of the peace) deciding pregnancy-related deaths at different rates?