



Bloomberg  
Philanthropies



DATA FOR  
HEALTH INITIATIVE

# ANNEX 2

## Medical certificate of cause of death assessment tool

This tool is designed to assess the quality of death certification practices by checking for common errors in death certificates. This can be used to assess the quality of death certification as part of routine assessment, or to assess the training needs of doctors in designing cause of death certification training. This tool can also be used to evaluate the effectiveness of death certification training.

This tool should be used in conjunction with the following documents, available to download at:

**[mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth/resources](https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth/resources):**

- *Assessing the quality of death certification*
- *Assessing the quality of death certification: Instructions for the online assessment tool*
- *Assessing the quality of death certification: Offline implementation guide (V1.1)*

### General instructions

<b>Country</b>	The country where the death was certified.
<b>Hospital name</b>	Name of hospital (or health facility) where the certificate was completed.
<b>Place of death</b>	For example, hospital, other health facility, home or other. Insert 'not recorded' if unknown.
<b>Certifier</b>	For example, doctor or other. Insert 'not recorded' if unknown.
<b>Reference no.</b>	If the death certificate has a medical record or patient number, insert it here. If not, leave blank.
<b>Age at death</b>	Age of the deceased at death. Remember to include units (hours, days, months, years). Insert 'not recorded' if unknown.
<b>Age group</b>	Based on the age at death, select from 0–28 days, 29 days – <1 year, 1–4 years; 5–14 years, 15–44 years, 45–64 years, 65–84 years, >85+ years.
<b>Gender</b>	Male or female. Insert 'not recorded' if unknown.
<b>Error types</b>	Detailed instructions on how to assess the quality of the death certificate against each error type are provided in the document <i>Assessing the quality of death certification</i>

# The assessment tool

## Death certificate details

Country:	
Hospital name:	
Place of death:	
Certifier:	
Reference no.:	

## General details about the deceased

Age at death:	
Age group:	
Gender:	

A correctly filled-in death certificate has none of the following errors.  
Did the certificate have:

Error type	Yes	No	Unsure because of illegible handwriting
1. Multiple causes per line			
2. Missing time interval from onset to death			
3. Blank lines within the sequence/chain of events			
4. Abbreviations used in certifying the cause of death			
5. Illegible hand writing			
6. Incorrect/clinically improbable sequence of events leading to death			
7. Ill-defined condition(s) entered as the underlying cause of death			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If yes, was the ill-defined condition:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Impossible underlying cause (ie signs and symptoms)</li> <li>– Intermediate cause</li> <li>– Mode of dying (ie respiratory arrest)</li> <li>– Unspecified causes within a larger death category (ie unspecified accident)</li> <li>– Other – <b>specify:</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
8. Were there additional errors on the certificate?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If yes, select all those that apply:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– For deaths from external causes, additional details were missing</li> <li>– For deaths as a result of neoplasms, additional details were missing</li> <li>– Changes/alterations made by any means other than drawing a line through the original text (ie using correction fluid)</li> <li>– No units specified for the age</li> <li>– Other – <b>specify:</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>9. Overall, was the medical certificate of cause of death correctly filled-in?</b>			

For more information, contact:

**E: CRVS-info@unimelb.edu.au**

**W: mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/dataforhealth**

CRICOS Provider Code: 00116K

Version: 0717-01