



MLH MEDICAL STAFF
RULES AND REGULATIONS
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

FOR COMMUNICATION PURPOSES
(per Bylaws, the MEC members vote on changes to Rules and Regulations)

RULES AND
REGULATIONS

Pronouncement of Death

Completing the Death
Certificate

These amendments will permit a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner to pronounce death and complete death certificates.

This is permitted via the Vital Statistics Law of 1953, Amended Act of June 22, 2012.

Amend the Rules and Regulations as follows:

Section IX: Autopsies

B. B

- B. Deaths which may be due entirely, or in part, to a factor other than natural cause (e.g. homicides, suicides, accidental deaths, including medical misadventure or unexpected adverse outcome of diagnostic or treatment procedure) should be reported to the coroner (Montgomery or Chester County) of the county in which the patient died. Specific recommendations as to the types of cases to be referred are included in the death procedure packets and/or autopsy permits of the MLH campuses. Should the coroner accept jurisdiction in the case, the autopsy will be performed by a forensic pathologist. In cases in which the coroner has accepted jurisdiction, the cause of death on the death certificate is to be completed by the coroner rather than by the physician **or the certified registered nurse practitioner** pronouncing the patient's death.

Section XIII. Deceased Patients

- 1. **Physicians, including residents, fellows and relief professionals, and certified registered nurse practitioners may pronounce death.**
- 2. The physician **or the certified registered nurse practitioner** who pronounces the death shall immediately place a death notice in the progress notes of the patient's chart.
- 3. It is the responsibility of the attending physician to **ensure that promptly notify** the next of kin or nearest relative to the patient **is promptly notified** when death occurs. **This notification may be carried out by the individual who pronounced the patient's death.**
- 4. ~~The~~ **An** attending physician, **or the certified registered nurse practitioner who pronounces the death,** ~~primarily~~ shall be responsible for **providing the medical certification on the death certificate.** ~~signing the death certificate, however, this responsibility may be to another licensed physician, if necessary.~~ **However, in all cases where the attending physician or certified registered nurse practitioner who would otherwise supply the medical certification is a member of the immediate family of the deceased, the case must be referred to another qualified physician or certified registered nurse practitioner. Residents, fellows and relief professionals may not provide the medical certification.**

	<p>5. In the event of a Hospital death, the deceased shall be pronounced dead by the attending practitioner or a designee within a reasonable time. The body shall not be released until an entry has <i>all entries required by Main Line Health hospitals administrative policies have</i> been made and signed in the medical record of the deceased by a member of the Medical Staff <i>physician or a certified registered nurse practitioner credentialed by the Medical Staff.</i> Policies with respect to release of dead bodies shall conform to local law.</p> <p>6. Neonatal <i>certified registered</i> nurse practitioners, acting under the supervision of an attending neonatologist may pronounce the death of a neonate. The <i>An</i> attending neonatologist is responsible for <i>providing the medical certification on the death certificate.</i> determining the cause of death.</p>
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The MLH Medical Executive Committee (MEC) members will vote on these amendments at the October 16, 2017 meeting. If you should have any questions or concerns on these amendments, please contact your respective Department Chair or Dr. Bill Ayers, MEC Chair/MLH Medical Staff President, ayersw@mlhs.org