

**QUALITY ASSESSMENT ON MEDICAL
CERTIFICATION OF CAUSE OF DEATH IN
YANKIN CHILDREN HOSPITAL
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ABSTRACT

Death certificates can issue useful health status data concerning disease incidence, prevalence and mortality statistics. Quality of national health information database may be weakened by incomplete and inaccurate death certificate data. Therefore, quality of medical certification of cause of death is important. This study was conducted to assess the quality of death certificates documentation at Yankin Children Hospital by using University of Melbourne death certificate assessment tool. In this study, there were no medical certifications of cause of death shows time interval between onset and death as well as overall correctly filled in. The error of use of abbreviation was (46.5%), followed by incorrect sequence of events leading to death (40%), multiple causes per line (32.6%), blank line within the sequence of events (27.6%), underlying cause of death is not entered in last line of part I (16.5%), additional errors (7.2%) and ill-defined condition entered as underlying cause of death (1.9%). All certificates were written by legible hand writing. According to error categories, there was no one death certificate without error. One error was (21.1%), two errors were (20.9%), three errors were (42.2%) and equal and more than four errors were (15.8%) respectively. Percentage of certified person was assistant surgeon (40.8%), postgraduate student (48.4%) and specialist assistant surgeon (10.8%). Regarding disease classification with ICD-10 coding, consistency of underlying cause of death between medical record technician and researcher was (62.6%) and overall quality based on underlying cause of death and ICD coding was (56.4%).

By doing in-depth interview, the problems of medical doctors on death certificate were explored. All respondents replied that death certificate documentation is important, and accurate, correct and complete data of death certificates are valuable in mortality statistics. Lack of training and guideline of death certificate, weakness of supervision and feedback mechanism are main difficulties. From the results of this study, to develop a clear, concise guideline for death certificate documentation of hospital death and pre and in-service training to achieve complete death certification.