

July 25, 2012

Dear Health Care Providers,

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health Office of Vital Registration (MCDPH OVR) is pleased to announce the creation of the Pocket Reference Guide for Cause of Death Certification in Arizona. This pocket guide is intended to serve as a tool for all health care providers to ensure accurate and complete reporting of cause of death information according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Center for Health Statistics' (NCHS) standards. This guide provides information regarding the new House Bill 2370 that was enacted and will take effect on August 2, 2012. House Bill 2370 clarifies your role and responsibility as health care providers when certifying the cause of death on a death certificate. This bill also exempts you from civil liabilities and professional discipline if you act in good faith.

Also included in this guide is information of the new free Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) web-based Continuing Medical Education (CME) course to obtain CME credits. This interactive online training module covers step by step process in documenting causes of death on a death certificate. You may access it at gvahecdev.mrooms3.net/login/index.php. Please visit our county website at www.medicalcertifier.org or www.codhelp.org for additional resources and information. In addition, the MCDPH OVR is happy to provide on-site training to you at your office or facility.

We believe that this combination of legislative change and continued educational development will result in improved cause of death data that will benefit our community for years to come.

We value your partnership and we hope that you find this material useful and beneficial when certifying and completing a death certificate. If you have any questions or would like to request on-site training or additional copies of the pocket reference guide, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Rabusa at 602-506-6814 or Lindsey Hall at 602-372-2635.

Sincerely,

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