



DATE: May 10, 2021  
TO: All Yukon physicians, Yukon Hospital Corporation, Yukon Registered Nurses Association, Yukon Medical Council  
FROM: Registrar of Yukon Vital Statistics  
RE: Protocol for Completion of the Death Certificate in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

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### Protocol for Completion of the Death Certificate in Medical Assistance in Dying

When a patient receives medical assistance in dying in Yukon, the Registration of Death form is completed by the responsible medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, in accordance with the Vital Statistics Act s. 19. The current version of the Registration of Death does not include medical assistance in dying as an option for manner of death. **As a result, the medical practitioner or nurse practitioner will complete the death registration form as follows:**

- Report the underlying disease/illness causing the grievous and irremediable medical condition in **Section 25 - Part I** as the cause of death in accordance with the World Health Organization Classification of Disease.
- Report medical assistance in dying (MAID) as the manner of death in **Section 29** (handwritten).

#### Example Section 25:

25. Cause of death	
Part I: Immediate cause of death	a) <b>Advanced ALS</b> due to, or as a consequence of
Antecedent causes, if any, giving rise to the immediate cause (a), stating the underlying cause last	b) due to, or as a consequence of
	c) due to, or as a consequence of

#### Example Section 29:

29. <input type="checkbox"/> Accident <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide <input type="checkbox"/> Homicide <input type="checkbox"/> Undetermined (specify)
<b>MAID</b>

The Yukon Certificate of Death procedure will remain unchanged, and will not state the cause of death.

**When notification of death to the Coroner is required:**

While there is no general requirement for the Coroner to be notified of a medically assisted death, the Coroner must be notified if the underlying grievous and irremediable condition is related to an accident, violence, workplace exposure or injuries, or misfortune. This is a reportable death under the Coroners Act, as normally is the case.

The focus is on the circumstances of the condition that started the chain of events.

For example:

*A man dying of mesothelioma due to asbestos exposure which occurred 30 years prior at work. The cause of death is MAID due to the grievous and irremediable condition – but this death must be reported to the Coroner because the grievous and irremediable condition was potentially a work-related exposure.*

*If we apply the “but for” test – “but for” the fact that this man had a work-related exposure which later developed into terminal mesothelioma, he would not have decided to elect for MAID.*

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

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