

# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Registration of Cause of Death

# Medical Cause of Death Certificate

- ▶ When a person dies, a medical doctor (a District Medical Officer, attending physician or even personal physician) must view the body and fill out a Cause of Death Certificate (an established form used for such purposes) with the following information:
  - ▶ Name of the deceased
  - ▶ Address of usual residence of deceased
  - ▶ Sex of deceased
  - ▶ Date death occurred
  - ▶ Age of deceased



## Medical Cause of Death Certificate cont'd

- ▶ Ethnicity of deceased
- ▶ Cause of death (primary and secondary or direct and antecedent)
- ▶ Place of death (ie: institution, home or other place and address of such place)
- ▶ Declaration of Medical Practitioner (stating date deceased was attended to, and verifying cause of death listed earlier in the form). The doctor also states his/her qualification and address, then signs and dates the certificate.

# The District Registrar's Office

(The District Registrar operates under the Births and Deaths Registration Act 44:01)

- ▶ The Informant (usually a relative present at the death or during the last illness of the deceased or living in the same district as the deceased or any person present at the death, even the matron of a home or institution or the person arranging the funeral) visits the office of the District Registrar closest to the place where the death occurred to register the death. (This should be done within 5 days of the death)
- ▶ The following documents are required:
  - ▶ The original and 1<sup>st</sup> copy of the Cause of death certificate
  - ▶ The informant's ID and some form of ID for the deceased e.g. National ID, Driver's permit, passport or electronic birth certificate.
- ▶ The information on the Cause of death certificate is checked and verified by the District Registrar, ensuring that the name of the deceased is spelt correctly, age is correctly stated and that the certificate is stamped, signed and dated.

## The District Registrar's Office cont'd

- ▶ Information is then inserted on a template on the electronic system (in real time)
- ▶ Informant is also interviewed and additional data are obtained and also captured on the system.
  - ▶ ID card number of deceased
  - ▶ Date of birth of deceased
  - ▶ Place of birth of deceased to include name of Hospital/Nursing Home etc. and address
  - ▶ Home address of the deceased



## The District Registrar's Office cont'd

- ▶ Rank or profession of deceased
- ▶ Place and address of employment of deceased
- ▶ Whether recipient of old age pension, NIS, disability grant
- ▶ Country of Birth and Residence
- ▶ Whether funeral is burial or cremation
- ▶ Informant's name, address and relationship to the deceased
- ▶ ID card number of Informant and 2 telephone contact numbers
- ▶ Informant is then issued a copy of the Registration, which is checked and verified

## The District Registrar's Office cont'd

- After data have been checked and verified by both District Registrar and Informant, a Death Registration entry number is automatically generated; the number generated is the same number as the Cause of death certificate
- The Death certificate is then printed and 3 copies are given to the informant (1 for Funeral Home, 1 for the Church and 1 for the cemetery or crematorium (designated by law)
- The informant is then given an application form to apply for the Electronic death certificate at the Office of the Registrar General
- There is no charge for this service



## Processing cause of death certificates by the Central Statistical Office

- ▶ Cause of death certificates are collected from Ministry of Legal Affairs (H/O) and District Registrars across the country.
- ▶ The certificates are entered in a register.
- ▶ The certificates are then edited for consistency and accuracy , then coded.
- ▶ Coding is highly specialized and is done according to the ICD 10 in order to obtain the underlying cause of death. Presently, some coding are done manually and some are done electronically using MMDS software.
- ▶ All resultant queries are resolved either at M.L.A. District registrars or hospitals.





## Processing cause of death certificates by the Central Statistical Office, cont'd

- Certificates are then batched and dispatched to computer division for data entry.
- After data capture has been completed an error list is generated and sent back to the Vital Stats Section for correction.
- After corrections are made data are then sent to CARPHA (Caribbean Public Health Agency) for validation.
- After data have been validated by CARPHA, corrections are then effected and re-submitted to computer division.
- Data tables are then generated.



## Data Tables Generated on Deaths by CSO

- ▶ Deaths by Age Group and Sex
- ▶ Deaths by Age Group, Sex and Normal Place of Residence
- ▶ Deaths by Cause, Sex and Age Group
- ▶ Deaths by Cause, Sex and Area of Residence
- ▶ Deaths at Hospitals and other Institutions by the Abbreviated Mortality List
- ▶ Deaths by External Causes of Injury and Poisoning by Nature of Injury
- ▶ Deaths by Sex and Month of Occurrence
- ▶ Infant Deaths (under 1 Year) by Age and Sex
- ▶ Infant Deaths (under 1 Year) by Cause, Sex and Age Group
- ▶ Infant Deaths (under 1 Year) by the Abbreviated Mortality and Area of Residence



## Foetal Deaths (Still Births)

- ▶ Data on Still Births are extracted from all Major Institutions
- ▶ Data are captured on the computer by Data Preparation Unit
- ▶ Data are checked and verified
- ▶ Data tables are generated



## Data Tables Generated on Still Births by the CSO

- ▶ Still Births by Sex and Age Group of Mother at Present Birth
- ▶ Still Births by Age Group of Parents
- ▶ Still Births By Sex and Month of Occurrence
- ▶ Still Births by Type, Sex and Age Group of Mother at Present Birth
- ▶ Still Births by Place of Occurrence and Person in Attendance
- ▶ Still Births by Age Group of Mother and Person in Attendance
- ▶ Still Births at Hospitals, Delivery Units, Nursing Homes and Other Places of Occurrence of Birth
- ▶ Still Births by Area of Residence of Mother and Area of Registration of Birth
- ▶ Still Births by Area of Residence of Mother and Place of Occurrence of Birth
- ▶ Still Births by Sex, Age Group of Mother and Area of Residence



## Role of the Health Institutions in Vital Statistics

- In Trinidad and Tobago approximately 99% of all Births occurs in Government Hospitals and Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- Also, approximately 60% of all Deaths occurs in Government Hospitals and Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes
- Therefore, Health Institutions provide a rich source of valuable data on health statistics. However they do not directly provide Vital Statistics data to the CSO, except the completion of the Cause of Death certificate. This is one of the many very important functions which the Medical Practitioners contributes towards the production of Death Statistics in Trinidad and Tobago
- The Government Hospitals also provide the CSO with some pertinent records on the Births and Deaths which occur at their institutions. These records are sometimes used to cross-check some information received from the Registrar General's department, hence resolving some of the queries.