The Role of Health Institutions
Recommended reading

- Role of health institutions
  *Principles and Recommendations, para 485-501*
Role of health institutions

- **Critical role**
  - Informants of the occurrence of birth, foetal deaths and deaths
  - Certification of causes of deaths
  - Health statistics

- **Informant**
  - Civil Registration Law often designates the head of the health institutions as responsible for acting as informant of births, foetal deaths and deaths occurring in their institutions
  - In practice, this results in having a secondary civil registration office located in the health institutions, making the information of occurrence fast-flowing
  - The parents (births) or relatives (deaths) are pointed to the registrar’s office within the health institutions where the registration of the event as well as certificates are take place
  - Even when the office is elsewhere and the role of informant falls to an individual (parents, relatives) the health institution provides the certification of the occurrence of the event which is then used by the registrar
Role of health institutions

- **Not civil registration**
  - Health institutions do not have the authority to issue certificates
  - Only civil registrar has the authority for legitimate registration
  - Health institutions are not equipped to discharge this function
  - Adverse impact on their primary function – health services
  - In certain circumstances health institutions may be tasked to submit statistical reports on vital events resulting in the production of vital statistics

- **Certification of cause of death**
  - Death certificate critical for surviving relatives
  - Equally important from the public health aspect is the cause of death
  - Registrar should insure that the cause of death form is part of the record and submitted for statistical processing
  - WHO standards for the cause of death
  - Presentation by WHO
Live births
Deaths
Fetal deaths
Marriages
Divorces
Annullments
Judicial separations
Adoptions
Legitimation
Recognition

Health services
Certification of cause of death
Authorized institutions
Courts
Judicial institutions

Civil Registration, including population registers
Principles:
1. Compulsory
2. Universal
3. Continuous
4. Confidentiality

Vital Statistics
Compilation
Processing
Validation
Quality control
Dissemination

National IDs’
Electoral lists
Passports

Complementary/Interim sources
Population census
Surveys
Sample registration areas

Additional administrative sources
Coronary Police Registries Health records
Concluding remarks

- Role of health institutions
  - Critical
  - Informants
  - Cause of death certification
  - Health statistics