The Role of Health Institutions in Collecting Cause of Death Information

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Legislative Issues

• Laws gives the main responsibility to the health institutions for the identification of death events

• For suspicious case, responsibility is shared by prosecutors and judicial physicians
Historical Background

• Between 2009-2012:
  – International death certificate
  – ICD 10
  – Paper based (burial license and statistical purpose)

• Since 2013:
  – International death certificate
  – ICD 10
  – Electronic death certificate (DNS) (burial license, statistical purpose, civil register, licenses for the transportation of deceased person)
Death Notification System

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05.10.2015
Coding

• Diagnosis coding is done at regional level in each of the 26 regions of Turkey. There are between 2 and 10 coders in each region according to its size.

• At central level, 4 coders are in charge of quality control and training.

• All coders use a specific data entry program to access the MoH database fed with DNS to code causes of death and enter the underlying cause of death.
Conclusions

• Role of MoH and health institutions is critical in the level of certification and coverage in terms of quality
  – Only the diagnoses made by physicians are accepted because of medical part
  – The efforts made by MoH such as duty physician and family physician systems are useful for the coverage improvement
  – Trainings on certification are necessary for quality improvement
  – Since 2013 with the enforcement of DNS by MoH, there has been a visible improvement in coverage and timeliness in the dissemination of results

• Role of NSO (TurkStat) is critical in the level of coding
  – Easy interaction between regional coders and central coders
  – Reminder trainings at least once a year