

# Briefing Note

Audience: HCPs responsible for filling in and delivering Medical Certificate of Death forms

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Date: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Subject: Temporary Practice Change: Medical Certificate of Death forms

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## **Background:**

The Medical Certificate of Death (MCoD) form is to be delivered to the decedent's funeral home within 24-48 hour after death in order for the death to be recorded by the Municipality and to have a burial certificate issued. This process can be inefficient and difficult for HCPs especially when an individual has died within the community. In addition, some health care providers (HCPs) may be reluctant to support the Expected Death in the Home (EDITH) process due to the inability to access the MCoD form in a timely manner and deliver the original to the funeral home.

## **Purpose:**

The current COVID 19 pandemic has provided opportunity to review current practice and make recommendations that will support social distancing restrictions while allowing HCPs and funeral homes to continue to provide required services.

## **Action:**

In consultation with the Western Ontario Funeral Service Association, HCPs filling in a MCoD may do the following :

- Fill in and sign the MCoD (in whichever form they prefer: paper copy; pdf fillable format; EMR formatted)
- Send an electronic copy to the decedent's funeral home via:
  - Scan and send by email with encrypted PDF password
  - Email from EMR with encrypted PDF password
  - Fax (fax machine/e-fax)
- Send original signed copy to the decedent's funeral home via post mail service.

The duration of this new process will be driven by the current pandemic outbreak and Public Health recommendations and is to be considered a temporary measure only.

## **Next Steps:**

Communicate approved practice change to all HCPs and locations within SW LHIN including but not limited to primary care providers, nurse practitioners, retirement homes, long term care homes, residential hospices.

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