



September 5, 2017

Dear Medical Certifier:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has expanded the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) into your area. Full implementation of the EDRS will occur in two phases. Phase 1, which is complete, focused on funeral directors and coroners/medical examiners. Phase 2 will be implemented in the future as resources allow, and will focus on medical certifiers (primarily physicians, PA-Cs and CRNPs) and licensed healthcare facilities.

Phase 1 is a hybrid approach in which the funeral director enters information directly into the EDRS and then transmits the medical information (provided by you) to the Department of Health via fax or scanned image. To make it easier for you to report the medical information until Phase 2 is implemented, we have developed the enclosed Medical Certification Worksheet for you to use to report the cause of death and other medical information. This completed worksheet is to be returned to the funeral director via fax, scanned image, or personal delivery.

Death certificates will list your name as the certifier with the notation that your signature is on file. Note that death certificates will not be issued to family members until the funeral director receives a properly completed Medical Certification Worksheet from you, so your cooperation is essential for families to receive their loved ones' death certificates to assist with estate settlements and other important legal matters in a timely manner.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation as we implement EDRS. If you have any questions, please email us at RA-DHDeathSupport@pa.gov or call us at 1-800-323-9613.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Caniglia', is written over a blue ink scribble.

Frank Caniglia, RHIA
Director, Division of Statistical Registries
Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries

Enclosure