



Oregon

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Department of Human Services

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RE: New Death Certificates

Dear Medical Certifiers:



Oregon has adopted a new death certificate for all deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2006. Cause of death information is important to public health and family needs. The death certificate is a legal document used for business and personal needs by family members, as well as statistical use by state and national public health agencies. Your information, as the medical certifier, is essential in meeting those needs.

We have enclosed an information sheet focusing on the medical items on the new death certificate. Additional information, including more specific information on external (injury) causes, pneumonia, and causes among the elderly, is available on our website at <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/chs/registration/index.shtml>.

While many of the items on the death certificate have been rearranged due to space concerns, only a few questions have been added. Specifically, **Item 53** (pregnancy status of female) and **Item 61** (role in transportation injury) have been added as medical questions. **Items 64** (title of certifier) and **Item 65** (medical license number) were added to include more specific information and ease identification of certifiers. **Item 66** (Date Certified), applies to the date the death certificate is signed (certified), not medical licensure.

Our Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS), which is currently in pilot at the state office, will prefill Items 62, 64, and 65, based on user information and choices when logging on to the system. We expect to begin a statewide rollout of EDRS in July 2006. Please check our project web site for additional information at <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/index.shtml>.

Sincerely,

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