

1. Can Coroners look at patients Medical Charts and make copies? Do they need Consent?

Response from the Chief Coroner;

Under The Coroners Act, 1999, section 13 b, a coroner can inspect and make copies of any record relating to the deceased or his or her circumstances. Consent is not required.

2. In LTC do we contact the community coroner or the provincial Coroners office if we are unclear if we are able to MCOD? (Related to previous injury/accident or other hx).

Response from the Chief Coroner;

If you have questions about whether there is a need to report a death ie: accident vs natural your first line of contact should be your community coroner. We recognize that at times, there may be a need for additional information/expertize and in these circumstances, the coroner and/or the RN(NP) can contact headquarters in Regina or the Northern Regional Office in Saskatoon.

3. In LTC what if the fall is a result of their medical condition?

Response from the Chief Coroner;

Very good question and difficult to respond to without additional detail. In general terms, the important question is whether in your opinion, injury is a contributing factor in the death and worthy of including on the MCOD. If such a situation arises, it may be prudent to contact the coroner to review the details in order to decide whether the death is reportable.

4. Can the form be completed online or only as a paper document? eHealth stated MCOD is only paper copy right now, will be going to move towards electronic (no date provided).

5. Are we legally able to sign MCOD today? Yes RN(NP)s have been legally able to complete the MCOD's since Jan 1, 2016. The SRNA asked RN(NP) to hold of signing until the education was provided.

6. Can the community coroner come to the medical clinic and ask to see a deceased patients chart? Yes. The Coroner has the authority to inspect and make copies of any record relating to the deceased.

7. What about sex of the deceased person and transgender population –how would you complete an MCOD? Currently RN(NP)s should complete the sex on the MCOD the same as it is recorded on the deceased persons birth certificate. eHealth is continuing to discuss this topic.

8. How much does an autopsy cost? I have had families ask who wondered if they would like to request one. *Response from Chief Coroner - I am not aware of costs related to private autopsies. It is important that health regions and health care providers have the necessary policies and procedures in place to facilitate this type of request. You may wish to consult with pathology labs currently doing autopsies to get additional information.*

9. How do I arrange for harvest of corneas? *Response from the Chief Coroner; To arrange for corneal harvest, please contact the Saskatchewan Transplant Program.*

10. Can I refuse to sign a certificate if I disagree with the coroner of the cause of death? If it is a coroner's case, and the coroner has attended and called for collateral medical information, should it be the coroner to complete the MCO? I have had the coroner demand that my collaborating MD complete it, despite the coroner deeming it a natural death.

Response from the Chief Coroner;

- *It is important to recognize that initially, the coroner collects the necessary information to determine whether the death falls within the jurisdiction of the coroner and requires further investigation. The fact that a patient dies at home does not necessarily mean this is a "coroner's case" and thus, require the coroner to sign the MCO. Indeed, coroners attend many deaths where it is obvious that the death is entirely natural and not unexpected given the circumstances and clinical history.*
- *The Coroner will normally contact the physician or RN(NP) to advise of the death and verify the history and talk of the circumstances. If it is confirmed that the death is natural and consistent the clinical history the coroner may decline jurisdiction meaning it is not reportable under section 7 of The Coroners Act. There is a professional obligation for the physician or RN/NP to complete the MCO in accordance with The Vital Statistics Act. The coroner need only establish that the death is entirely nature and not reportable under any of the provisions outlined in section 7 of The Coroners Act. It is then the responsibility of the physician or RN(NP) to establish and document the cause of death and if there is any question about those responsibilities, it may be beneficial to speak to the appropriate regulatory agencies to provide clarification and direction.*