

Kingdom of Morocco



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Joint Circular

Between

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

MINISTRY OF THE
INTERIOR

Dear Regional Governors, Prefectural Governors,
Provinces and Prefectures of the Kingdom Regional Directors of
Health Delegates of the Ministry of Health Directors of University
Hospitals

Subject: Introduction of a new death certificate.

The information system relating to statistics on deaths and their causes, as an integral part of the National Health Information System, is a valuable tool for understanding and assessing the state of health in our country.

Indeed, knowledge of the causes of death makes it possible to identify the main factors that determine mortality levels and provides a concrete means of evaluating health programs, setting priorities, developing epidemiological surveillance plans, and conducting adequate health planning.

In this regard, the death certificate is the official administrative document used to record the personal details of the deceased person and the causes and circumstances of death, as required by law for the issuance of a burial permit. This certificate also serves to support the declaration of death to the competent civil registrar.

As a member country of the WHO, Morocco uses the regulations relating to the application of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) for the production of mortality and morbidity statistics. The role of the ICD is of great importance for the establishment of statistics on health status as a means of comparison at the national and international levels.

Also, in order to comply with international standards, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior (Directorate General of Local Authorities), has revised the death certificate (e.g., death and stillbirth certificate) in accordance with the standards established by the WHO.

This certificate has two detachable parts:

An administrative section () **nominative, intended for** the civil registry office d'état civil for the registration of the death;

- A medical section relating to the causes and circumstances of death intended for the Ministry of Health **for processing.**

Following the trial introduction of this new death certificate, which took place in the Rabat Prefecture during the period 2017-2018 and whose evaluation revealed promising results and a significant improvement in data quality, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Interior have decided to roll out this new death certificate to all Prefectures, provinces, and district prefectures throughout the Kingdom.

We therefore kindly ask you to take the necessary measures to:

Adopt the new death certificate in all healthcare facilities and Municipal Health Offices (BCH) within your jurisdiction and ensure that this document is completed correctly.

- Discontinue the use of old versions of the death certificate;

Hold **coordination** meetings **at the regional, prefectural, and provincial levels**, particularly between the delegations of the Ministry of Health (DMS), the heads of **municipal health** offices (BCH), and the chief inspectors of civil **services reporting** to the prefectures, **provinces**, and district prefectures to **inform them about these measures and their application.**

Transmit only the anonymous medical section of death certificates (in paper form) to the DMS on a monthly basis for entry into the computer system **before forwarding them to the Regional Health Directorates and then to the central level (Directorate of Planning and Financial Resources).**

For the launch of this new death certificate, the Department of Health will provide an initial supply of printed copies of the new certificate to the relevant organizations.

In addition, the decentralized services of the Ministry of Health will provide training to doctors, nurses, health technicians, and other personnel involved in certification on how to complete the death certificate.

It should be noted that the collection and processing of data through the death certificate are subject to the provisions of Law 101 09-08 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data.

Circuit for transmitting death certificates:

The death certificate must follow the following procedure:

For deaths occurring in public health facilities: The anonymous part of the completed death certificate must be collected and sent monthly to the relevant DMS;

For deaths occurring outside public health facilities: the BCH records the death and carefully completes the death certificate. The BCH then sends the anonymous section to the relevant DMS on a monthly basis.

Finally, given the importance of these measures for strengthening the cause of death information system and improving the quality of the data collected, we kindly ask you to oversee the implementation of the new death certificate in healthcare facilities and civil registry offices within your jurisdiction and to ensure that this circular is widely distributed to the various stakeholders and parties concerned.

We cannot overemphasize the importance we attach to the success of this operation, which will provide us with information on the structure of causes of mortality and enable us to better plan health initiatives.

The provisions of this joint circular shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Appendices:

- **New** death certificate.
Instructions for completing the death certificate.

The Minister of Health

Ministère de la Santé
Anass nmixKALI

The Minister of the Interior

~~The Minister Délégué
auprès du Ministère de l'Intérieur~~
Noureddine BOUTAYEB