

Medical Certification of Cause of Death(MCCD):

The **Medical Certification of Cause of Death(MCCD)** in selected Government and Private hospitals to study the Mortality Statistics which is an integral part of the Vital Statistics in the country.

Statistical analysis of Causes of death forms an important morbidity and mortality data base, which is the backbone of National Health Policy and Planning. The main aim of building mortality statistics is to know the leading causes of deaths, as they are essential for prioritizing Public Health Programmes not only for the country as a whole but also equally important at regional/sub-regional level.

a. Statutory Frame Work:

- Medical Certification of Cause of Death under Civil Registration System has got statutory backing under sections 10(2) and 10(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969.
- **Section 10(2)** empowers the states to implement this scheme in any given area while taking level of health infrastructure.
- **Section 10(3)** fixes the onus for the issuance of a certificate as to the cause of death on the medical practitioners who attended the deceased at the time of death.

Section 10(2) and 10(3) of the RBD Act, 1969

Government of Karnataka have issued a Notification, (No PDS 146 SMC 2002 dated 25-10-2002) to bring all Government Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the State under the scheme of Medical Certification of Cause of death and as such:

- ✳ In case of death in a Government Hospital, Private Hospital, autonomous Medical Institution or a Private Nursing Home, it shall be the duty of the Medical Officer/Medical Practitioner who attended the deceased during his/her last illness to certify the cause of death under Section 10(2) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969, in Form No.4.

- ✳ In case of non-institutional deaths it shall be the duty of the Private Practitioner who attended the deceased during is/her last illness to certify the cause of deaths under Section 10(2) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969, in Form No. 4A.

Section 17(1) (b), Section 23(3) and Section 19(2) of the RBD Act, 1969:

- ✳ **Section 17(1)(b)** provides for maintaining the confidentiality of information by forbidding the disclosure of the cause of death.
- ✳ **Section 23(3)** Any medical practitioner who neglects or refuses to issue a certificate under sub-section (3) of section 10 and any person who neglects or refuses to deliver such certificates shall be punishable with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.
- ✳ **Section 19(2)** The relevant State Rules under this section of the Act provide that the Report for each year has to be prepared before 31st July of the year immediately following.

Usefulness of MCCD:

- ✳ MCCD provides cause-specific mortality profiles and is a key indicator for analyzing the health trends of the population in a scientific manner.
- ✳ The information is of considerable use to public health planners, administrators, medical professionals and research workers.
- ✳ The information is made use of in the assessment of the effectiveness of public health programme.
- ✳ It is feedback for better health planning and management as well as for deciding priorities of health and medical research programme.