

SMA Workshop: Death Certification

24 March 2012, Saturday
Raffles Town Club (Dunearn 3, Level 1)

CERTIFICATION OF DEATH

Medical certification is a privilege solely accorded to registered medical practitioners by society and the law. The certification of death carries with it a serious duty and significant responsibilities in its execution. The appropriate knowledge, skills and attitudes are necessary to fulfil this responsibility. Failure or neglect of this responsibility would lead to serious legal, ethical and professional repercussions.

When called to do such certification of death, the practitioner must have reviewed the past medical history and the recent medical illness. The doctor needs to understand the difference between the cause of death and the mechanism or mode of death. The doctor must discern and make appropriate clinical judgement as to the relevant contributory cause of death. Doctors must be aware of their responsibilities under the Coroners Act. The Coroners Act 2010 requires all doctors to be able to recognise when deaths need to be reported to the Coroner. Reportable deaths are classified as mandatory or discretionary.

The doctor certifying death has also to understand the stress and grief situation that the bereaved family is undergoing. He has to exhibit the appropriate professional demeanour and conduct. Medical professionals must acquire the skills and attitudes in expressing appropriate empathy to all concerned while carrying his duty effectively.



MAIN SPEAKER

This workshop will cover topics of the duty of care in death certification, factors that lead to the breach of this duty, the professional conduct expected, common errors in certification, and hands on practice in filling death certificates based on case scenarios.

This workshop will be led and facilitated by Dr Lai Siang Hui from the Department of Pathology, Singapore General Hospital (SGH) and a board member of the SMA Centre for Medical Ethics and Professionalism.

Prior to his appointment as Consultant at the Department of Pathology, SGH, Dr Lai practised as a forensic pathologist at the Health Sciences Authority of Singapore, where he was Head (Research) and later Head (Training & Education). He is currently also Residency Director of the SingHealth Pathology Residency Programme. He has Associate Professor appointments with Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, as well as the School of Biological Sciences at Nanyang Technological University. He is also Clinical Senior Lecturer with the Department of Pathology, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

Besides usual work commitments, Dr Lai finds time for other professional and social activities. He serves as Vice President of the Medico-Legal Society of Singapore.

Dr Lai is married with two children and spends his limited spare time with his family. Outside professional work, he occasionally helps out at the grassroots level as well. Last but not least, he is also lay minister at his church where he serves as leader and is privileged to share from the pulpit occasionally.



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Organised by:

SMA CMEP

Centre for
Medical Ethics &
Professionalism

Date: 24 March 2012, Saturday

Venue: Raffles Town Club (Dunearn 3, Level 1)

Number of CME points: Pending approval from the Singapore Medical Council

To register, visit http://www.sma.org.sg/cmep_death_certification or fill in the form below.

PROGRAMME	
2.00 pm - 2.30 pm	Introduction and Duty of Care in Certification – Legal and Ethical Implications
2.30 pm - 3.00 pm	Understanding the Coroners Act 2010
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm	The Components of the Death Certificate – How to Fill In Correctly
3.30 pm - 4.00 pm	Tea Break
4.00 pm - 4.40 pm	Group Discussion – Case Scenarios and Hands On Practice
4.40 pm - 5.00 pm	Review of Discussion with Q & A
FACULTY	
Main Speaker & Facilitator	A/Prof Lai Siang Hui <i>Consultant, Department of Pathology, SGH</i>
Facilitators	A/Prof T Thirumoorthy <i>Associate Professor, Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School</i>
	Dr Anantham Devanand <i>Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, SGH</i>
	Dr Gerald Chua <i>Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine & Head, Department of Medicine, AH</i>
	A/Prof Goh Lee Gan <i>Senior Consultant & Head, Division of Family Medicine, NUHS</i>



Please attach this slip when making payment. Kindly fax your credit card details/mail your cheque to **Ms Loy Mong Shi, Singapore Medical Association, Level 2, Alumni Medical Centre, 2 College Road, Singapore 169850. Fax: 6224 7827.** Registration is not confirmed until payment is received. A confirmation email will be issued to all applicants.

I would like to register for the Death Certification Workshop.

(Complimentary for all SMA members, \$50 for AMS/CFPS members, \$80 for non-SMA/AMS/CFPS members)

Name: _____ Handphone No.: _____

Email: _____ Specialty: _____

Applicable to Doctors Only

MCR No: _____ Member: SMA / AMS / CFPS / none (please circle accordingly)

Amount Payable: Complimentary / \$50 / \$80 (please circle accordingly)

Mode of Payment:

Credit Card

VISA/Master Card No.: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiry Date: _____ / _____ CV2/CVC2 No.: _____

Cheque (payable to Singapore Medical Association)

Bank: _____ Cheque No.: _____