

Improving the Accuracy of Death Certification among Secondary Care Physicians

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Objective: To assess the impact of an educational intervention on the accuracy of death certification of secondary healthcare physicians in Bahrain.

Setting: Secondary Health Care, Ministry of Health.

Design: Interventional study.

Method: Twenty-seven secondary healthcare physicians were invited to attend an interactive workshop about death certificate completion. They were asked to complete a death certificate based on a Case-scenario at the start and after the end of the workshop. The errors made by the physicians were compared before and after the intervention.

Result: Five (18.5%) physicians had some type of training about death certificate completion and 3 (11.1%) were aware of the death certificate completion guidelines. A highly significant ($p < 0.001$) reduction in errors prior to the intervention and after was revealed, 25 (92.6%) errors versus 11 (40.7%). The most frequent error was listing the mechanism but it markedly dropped to one-third following the workshop.

Conclusion: The number of errors has declined after attending the workshop. Training physicians in death certificate completion would improve the accuracy of mortality statistics.