

# New forms to be used from 1 July 2005 for certifying death: What you need to know

From 1 July 2005 medical practitioners will need to use different forms for certifying death. The table below tells you what you need to know about the new forms.

Which medical practitioner?	Name and purpose of form required	Which form does it replace?	Optional or compulsory?	Who fills it out?	Additional information
<b>Medical practitioner certifying death</b>	<b>Current Medical Certificate of Cause of Death</b> Certification of death.	White A4 Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and any yellow/buff Medical Certificate of Cause of Death.  The medical practitioner certifying death is no longer required to complete an additional medical certificate for cremations (currently contained in the blue four page Departmental cremation form).	Compulsory.	The medical practitioner who was responsible for the deceased's medical care immediately before death or who examines the body of the deceased person within 48 hours of their death.	The current version of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death is an A3 form in triplicate. It includes additional questions relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the name, date of birth or age, and the place of birth of any living or deceased sibling of a deceased child (Q14), to enable the Registry to comply with requirements under the <i>Death Notification Legislation (Amendment) Act 2004</i>; and</li> <li>the presence of a cardiac pacemaker in the body of the deceased person (Q10).</li> </ul> <p>Medical practitioners that do not have the most recent version of this form should contact the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages on 1300 369 367 (dial "0" after the prompt) or download an order form from <a href="http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au/bdm.htm">www.dvc.vic.gov.au/bdm.htm</a><sup>i</sup></p> <p>The medical practitioner authorising cremation is required to undertake careful and independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased. In general this will require them to have a discussion with the treating and attending doctor(s).</p>

<sup>i</sup> Click on "Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages," scroll down to the row called "Online Birth and Death Notification" and click on "Medical Practitioners only."