



# TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

A GRANT-IN-AID INSTITUTION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, GOVT. OF INDIA

## Centre for Cancer Epidemiology

The Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death Data (USCOD)

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USCOD has been functioning as a reliable resource centre for strengthening the cause of death data in India through capacity building of government and private doctors in Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD), supporting implementation and institutionalisation of mortality coding teams, advocacy and governance to support the adoption of standard MCCD forms across the country.

The unit works in 10 states at present that include Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal. Within these states USCOD collaborates with the respective State Health Department, State Department of Medical Education, Directorate of Census Operations, State branches of the Indian Medical Association, AYUSH officials to implement its capacity building, ICD coding and governance programs. Along the government, USCOD also works with private hospitals and medical colleges to strengthen the institutional capacity and CRVS system. The target audience for the unit's capacity building in MCCD are medical interns, resident doctors, medical faculty, consultant doctors from government and private hospitals. USCOD also supports a training of trainer program that builds doctors capacity as an MCCD trainer.



For learning resources to go:

USCOD YouTube Channel- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVdLsHJa6\\_ZXmQQk4\\_m2eA/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVdLsHJa6_ZXmQQk4_m2eA/featured)  
MCCD E-Learning Course- <https://www.omnicuris.com/academics/medical-certification-of-cause-of-death>

# B I H A R

## Capacity Building, Training and Advocacy

- USCOD has been advocating for the standardization of MCCD forms in Bihar to ensure quality and completeness of cause of death data based on RGI (Registrar General Of India) and WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines. With the technical support from USCOD, in Bihar The Department of Health & Family Welfare has standardized the MCCD forms 4 and 4A across all healthcare facilities in Bihar. A government circular for mandatory adoption for the same was put out in April 2024.
- Collaboration with Bihar's Department of Statistics and Economics proposed a centralized coding center for ICD 10 Mortality Coding.
- Advocacy efforts led Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) to agree to adopt standard MCCD forms- Form 4 & 4A and connect with the Directorate of Economics and Statistics for best practices adoption.
- A state level meeting was organized in April that was led by the Bihar Health Department and attended by Director of Census Operations, Bihar, Director of Economics and Statistics Bihar, Deans from medical colleges and Medical Superintendents from Healthcare Facilities.
- At the state level meeting nodal persons for medical colleges were ascertained. Also 5 doctors from each medical college were nominated who will be trained to be trainers for Medical Certification of Cause of Death. These trainers will further conduct training for MCCD in their respective institute in a cascading manner.
- An MCCD Training of Trainers is organized in July 2024 for the nominated doctors.
- A high level meeting was conducted between the Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Tata Memorial Centre leadership from HBCHRC Muzaffarpur and USCOD to initiate a cause of death strengthening roadmap and development of SOPs for Bihar.

# M A H A R A S H T R A

## Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai-

- USCOD has supported the implementation of the team of mortality coders in the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai which has been fully institutionalized within MCGM. Currently, USCOD is supporting the quality assessment of morality coding in Mumbai.
- In order to better guide the training and capacity building within the city, it is important to understand the baseline status of MCCD quality and completeness as a needs assessment. USCOD is supporting a baseline MCCD quality and completeness

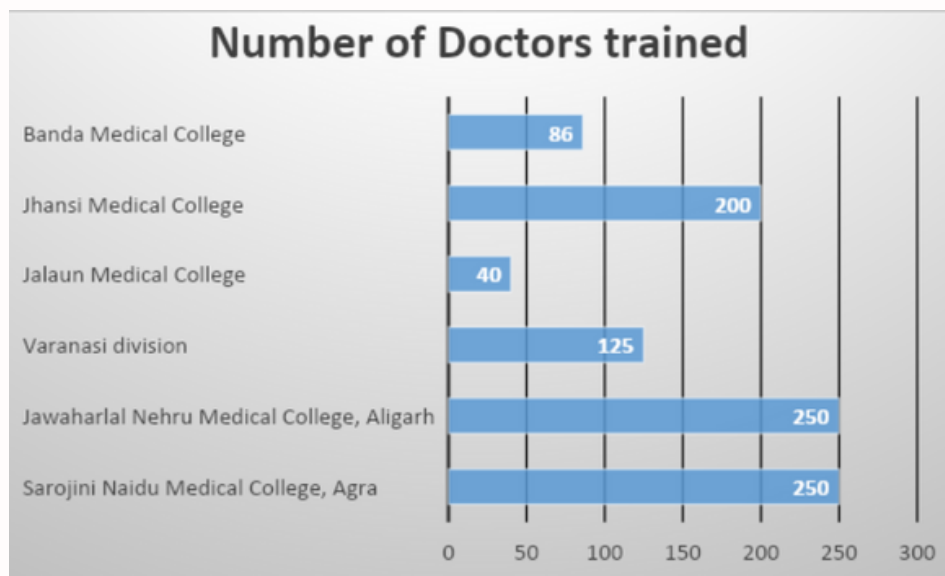
- In collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, Uttar Pradesh, the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death initiated Project Kiran Kaaran to fortify civil registration, vital statistics, and medical certification of causes of death in Uttar Pradesh. As part of this collaboration, the National Conference for Strengthening Cause of Death (NaStaCon 2024) was jointly organized by the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death, Centre for Cancer Epidemiology, Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre (MPMMCC), Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital (HBCH), and Directorate of Census Operations, Uttar Pradesh, in Varanasi on 13th February 2024.

**Varanasi Declaration- Key Deliberations from the National Stakeholders Conference for Strengthening Cause of Death, NaStaCon 2024.**

- **Project Kiran Kaaran:** A collaborative effort aimed at capacity building across 18 government medical colleges and high-case-load district hospitals in Uttar Pradesh. This initiative aims to establish a sustainable institutionalized model for the training of doctors in medical certification of causes of death, with potential replication in other states.

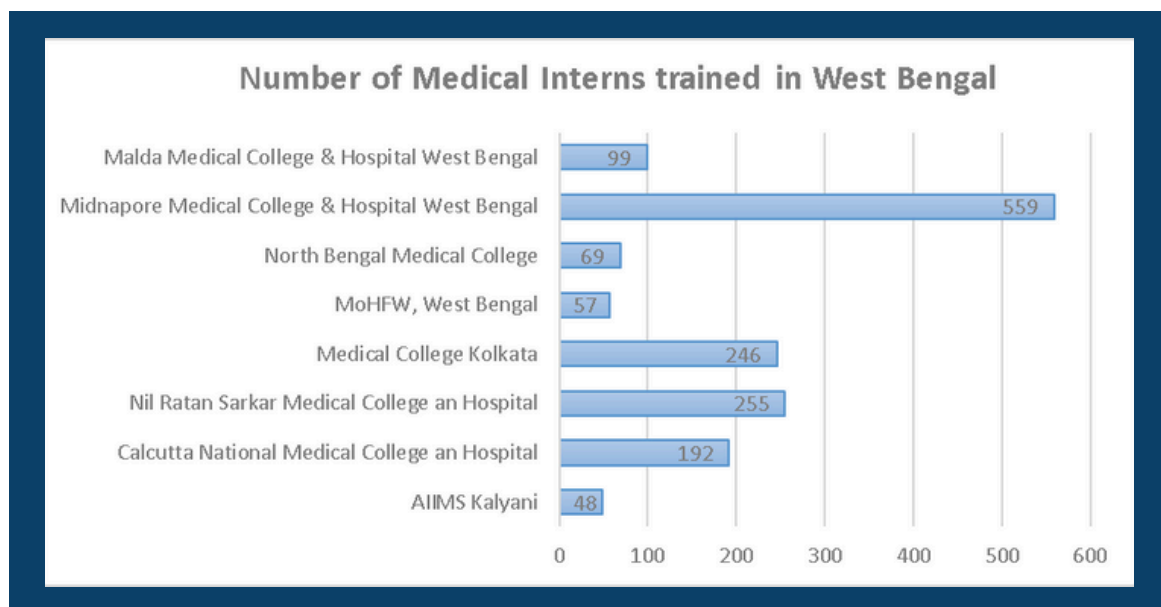
Training in 18 Medical Colleges of Uttar Pradesh and 100 % implementation of MCCD	By August, 2024
Training in high case load units and 100% implementation of MCCD	By December, 2024

- Medical Certification of Cause of Death training were conducted at Sarojini Naidu Medical College, Agra (250 participants), Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh (250 participants), Varanasi division (125 participants), Jalaun Medical College (40), Jhansi Medical College (200) and Banda Medical College (86).
- A 6-day ICD Mortality Coding training workshop led by Dr Saman Gamage, Global ICD Coding Expert saw 73 participants from across India. These participants were nominated by their respective states. Many of the participants will play the role of ICD trainer for their states.
- A two-day Medical Certification of Cause of Death training of trainers’ workshop was held on 14th and 15th February. The participants attending the workshop were nominated by 18 medical colleges and the Directorate General of Medical Health and Education UP. 2 doctors were nominated from each Healthcare Facility who were trained to be MCCD Trainers for their respective institution.
- Development of a checklist to assess the preparedness and current status of hospitals for MCCD/CRVS- in progress.



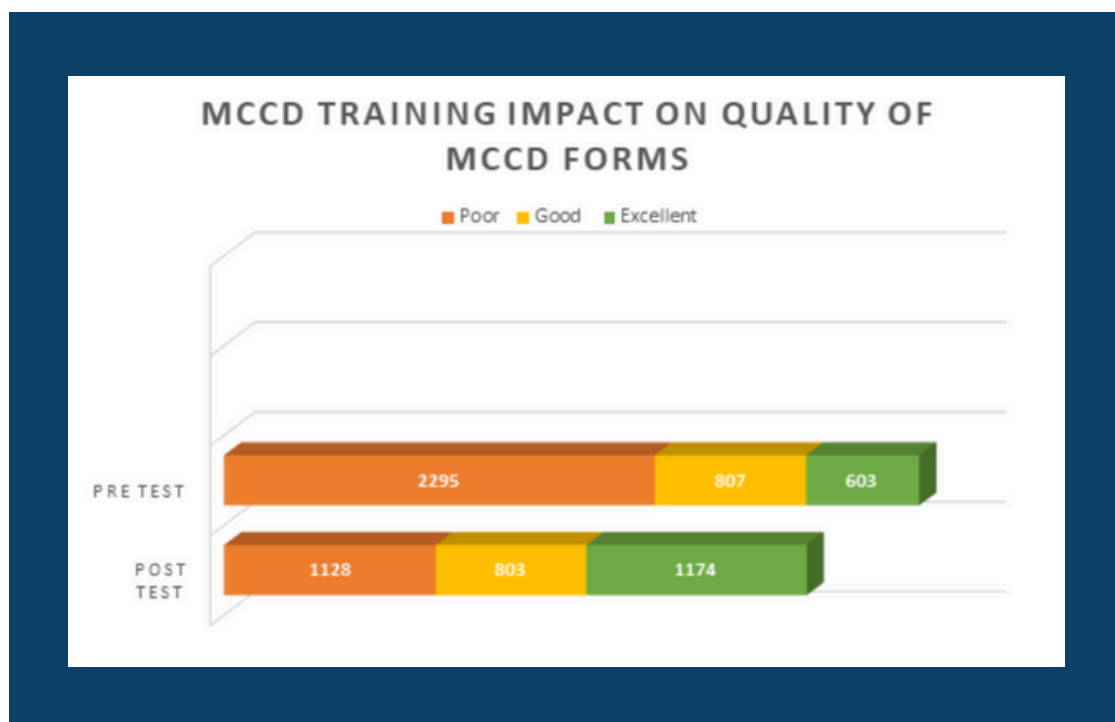
## WEST BENGAL

- USCOD's ongoing collaboration with the State Bureau of Health Intelligence (SBHI) in West Bengal includes a comprehensive training initiative for 4000 medical interns in MCCD from across the government medical colleges.
- As part of the intensive training program, 1500 medical interns have been trained to date. This initiative will continue to focus on training interns in MCCD
- As an extension of the collaboration with the West Bengal Health Department, USCOD has proposed a state level meeting of key stakeholders along with planning of a state-level training of trainers for MCCD



# MCCD Training impact across States

- The evaluation of the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) training program showed significant improvements in the accuracy of death certifications among 725 medical practitioners from various hospitals and medical colleges in Mumbai, Nashik, Aurangabad Division, Bihar and West Bengal.
- These practitioners underwent a rigorous training process, including pre- and post-training assessments, where they filled out standardized MCCD forms for sample cases. The training led to a marked improvement in the quality of these forms. Prior to training, the majority of forms were of poor quality (61.9%), but post-training, this figure dropped to 30.4%. Conversely, the number of excellent quality forms rose sharply from 16.3% to 47.9%, indicating a substantial 35% increase.
- This shift signifies that the training program effectively enhanced the practitioners' ability to accurately document causes of death. The study also highlights the importance of continuous training and capacity building, as these measures significantly improve the quality of data on causes of death, which is critical for health policy and planning.





- The successful implementation of the MCCD training program demonstrates that with proper training, medical practitioners can significantly improve their documentation practices, leading to more reliable and accurate death data. This improvement is vital for public health authorities to make informed decisions and implement effective health policies and interventions. Overall, the study underscores the need for ongoing training programs to maintain and further enhance the quality of medical certification of causes of death, ultimately contributing to better health outcomes and policy decisions.

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## Gender Equity Study

- The Gender Equity Unit within the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death works to carry out research activities around cause of death data strengthening from a gender equity perspective.
- During the 1st phase of the GEU activities, a retrospective quantitative study was conducted at MPMMCC & HBCH- Varanasi and HBCH & RC, Muzaffarpur. The study aimed to analyze age and sex wise distribution of cancer deaths data
- Collaborated with Johns Hopkins Gender Equity Unit on the 2nd Phase of the Gender Equity Study, focusing on healthcare seeking behavior with delayed presentation of cancer among males & females.

## Contact information of USCOD

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Please visit the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death Data website for more information on the resources provided and additional resources

**<https://tmc.gov.in/USCOD/Home.aspx>**

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This newsletter was developed with inputs from the following: Dr. Pankaj Chaturvedi, Dr. Rajesh Dikshit, Dr. Yagnik Vaza, Dr. Sharvari Mhapankar, Ms. Sanyukta Kashyap, Ms. Yukta Bothra, Mr. Jean-Edgard Nguessan