World Health Organization

Cause of Death
on the
Death Certificate
In line with ICD-10

-Quick reference guide-

Cause of death information serves
 -epidemiology and prevention
 -managing health care
 -comparing health in different populations

Certification of death is one of the first steps in getting an overview of the health of people.

The diseases or conditions recorded on a death certificate represent the best medical opinion.

A properly completed cause-of-death certificate provides a description of the order, type and association of events that have resulted in the death.

The diagnoses reported on the certificate are coded with the International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition. This coded data is analyzed and used both nationally and internationally no matter what language was used to complete the certification.