

Accuracy reduces delays

In 2025/26 10% of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death (MCCDs) reviewed by DCRS had administrative errors which required correction. Of that 10%, here is the following breakdown:

None of the form is optional.

All parts and questions on both sides should be considered and answered as appropriate

This content was created by the Death Certification Service (DCRS) in 2026. **Some Parts of the MCCD have been replicated to demonstrate where common admin errors occur.** This does not contain all Parts of the MCCD

PART A - DETAILS OF DECEASED

7% Missing/incorrect CHI number

Date of death (dd/mm/yyyy)	
Time of death (24-hour clock - hh:mm)	When the patient died, not the time death was confirmed
Place of death	Include ward details if died in hospital
Health Board area in which death occurred	

→ Ward 22

← Ward 23

21%
incorrect

PART B - DETAILS OF CERTIFYING DOCTOR

7%
incorrect

GMC number	
Business address	Ensure full address noted, including postcode
Business contact telephone number	Business/Ward telephone number, not personal mobile
For a death in hospital Name of the consultant responsible for the deceased	
I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the information contained in this Medical Certificate of Cause of Death is correct.	
Signature of certifying doctor	You must remember to sign the form
Date	

PART C - CAUSE OF DEATH

	between onset and death Years Months Days
I Disease or condition directly leading to death* (a)	Most recent
Antecedent causes – Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last due to / or as a consequence of (b)	
due to / or as a consequence of (c)	
due to / or as a consequence of (d)	Oldest
II Other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to the disease or condition causing it	

Allowed abbreviations: **HIV, AIDS, COVID-19 Disease** and **SARS-Cov-2, CREST, CADASIL, SCID, IgG, IgA** and **IgM**.
Terms such as **CVA** (Cerebrovascular Accident) **should not** be used.

11% incorrect abbreviation used

PART D - HAZARDS

Always complete or certificate **must** be re-issued. Use only



To the best of your knowledge and belief;		Y	N
DH1	Does the body of the deceased pose a risk to public health: for example, did the deceased have a notifiable infectious disease or was their body "contaminated", immediately before death?		

DH2	Is there a cardiac pacemaker or any other electrical device implanted in the deceased?		
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DH3	Is there radioactive material or other dangerous substance in the deceased?		
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As COVID-19 disease is a notifiable disease, consideration should be given to ticking the hazard box. For up-to-date guidance: <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Consider if cared for the patient during the illness or condition that led to death

Attendance on deceased (tick one)	
A1	I was in attendance upon the deceased during last illness
A2	I was not in attendance upon the deceased during last illness: the doctor who was is unable to provide the certificate
A3	No doctor was in attendance on the deceased

6%
incorrect

Extra information for statistical purposes (tick if applicable)	
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Only if waiting for histology/toxicology/microbiology/other results which may add detail to cause of death

A3	No doctor was in attendance on the deceased		
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Extra information for statistical purposes (tick if applicable)	
X	I may be able to supply the Registrar General with additional information

7%
incorrect

Maternal Deaths (tick if applicable)	
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Before sending to the relevant registration office, check:

- ▶ Writing is in black ink in **BLOCK CAPITALS** and is legible
- ▶ It is signed and all parts of both sides of the form are completed to the best of your knowledge and belief
- ▶ The contents of the form and the possibility of a review by the Death Certification Review Service is discussed with the family
- ▶ The MCCD is not shared with the next of kin, funeral director or other either electronically or by hard copy
- ▶ Spelling is correct



41%
incorrect

To watch a short animation on how to complete a paper-based MCCD in Scotland visit:

> <https://vimeo.com/707891717>

Further guidance on MCCD completion / death certification can be found at:

> [Death Certification Review Service \(DCRS\) – Healthcare Improvement Scotland](#)

> www.nrscotland.gov.uk/MCCDGuidance

> www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/atafter-death/