

Death Certificates – On Call Physicians Responsibility

POLICY: It is the policy of the Board of Licensure in Medicine that it is the responsibility of any physician who is covering another practice to sign the death certificate of a patient who belongs to the practice they are covering, even though the deceased's medical history may not be known to the covering physician, unless they have reason to believe that the cause of death is not natural.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 12, 1999

REVIEWED/REAFFIRMED: November 9, 2010

REVISION DATE:

HISTORY: This issue came to the Board from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner because physicians were failing to meet their legal obligation to complete death certificates when the deceased was not from their own practice.