



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Oxiris Barbot, MD
Commissioner

Gretchen Van Wye, PhD, MA
Assistant Commissioner
City Registrar
Bureau of Vital Statistics

125 Worth Street
Room 204, CN#7
New York, NY 10013

April 17, 2020

We have recently received several questions regarding recording and certifying the disposition portion on New York City death certificates through eVital. It has become clear to us that there are some misconceptions about that process. I am writing to clarify that there is no 72 hour “recertification” requirement, even though the health code states that disposition must be entered within 72 hours.

The health code does require the medical provider to report and certify a death in eVital within 24 hours of the event and if there is no funeral home involved, the disposition, within 72 hours. Given the pandemic, it is more likely than usual, to not know if a funeral director is involved within the 72 hours. To prevent medical facilities from having to update the responsibility of the disposition after the initial certification, we are suggesting, if there is no knowledge of funeral director involvement at that time, that facilities indicate in eVital that they are responsible for the disposition.

In alignment with a memo issued by OCME on April 12, 2020, we are suggesting that the medical provider should indicate one of two options for disposition in eVital:

- 1) No, Medical Institution is not responsible for the final disposition (when funeral director is involved) or
- 2) Yes, Medical Institution is responsible for the final disposition (when no known funeral home involvement at time of report) and enter the Method of Disposition as City Burial.

This requires certification in eVital once rather than twice. If a funeral director becomes involved at a later time, subsequent changes to the disposition information can be completed by them by filing an amendment in eVital.

We hope this information is helpful and eliminates any additional burdens. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to email our Constituent Services Unit (CSU) at eVital@health.nyc.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment during this difficult time for all New Yorkers.