International orientation for certifying and coding COVID-19

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The importance of high-quality information during the pandemic

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- High quality information is more needed than ever.

- New disease: clinical manifestations, evolution, comorbidity associated.

- Death certificate data is essential to identify who is dying, where they occurred, and associated medical conditions.

- Death certificate data provides evidence to support preparedness and response, and design policies and research.

COVID-19 undercount

- Incorrect filling of the Death Certificate

- Lack of knowledge of the concept of the Underlying Cause of Death

- Deaths at home.

- Availability of laboratory tests

- Different reporting standards.

- The international orientation enable COVID-19 mortality to be measured in a comparable manner.

WHO definition of death due to COVID-19

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A death due to COVID-19 is a death resulting in a clinically compatible, probable or confirmed, COVID-19 case, unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that can not be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no complete period of recovery between COVID-19 illness and death.

A death due to COVID-19 may not be attributed to another disease (e.g. cancer) and should be counted independently of preexisting conditions that are suspected of triggering a severe course of COVID-19.

Recording COVID-19 as cause of death

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If COVID-19 is reported to be a cause of death, this should be recorded in the Death Certificate, likely as the underlying cause of death.

- Test should be conducted, if possible.
- If a definitive diagnosis cannot be made, the case can be reported as "probable" or "presumed".

In general it is best to avoid abbreviations and acronyms, but COVID-19 is unambiguous, it is ok to report.
Pre-existing conditions that may increase susceptibility or exacerbate the disease, should be reported in Part 2.

Emergency use ICD-10 codes for COVID-19 disease*

U07.1, virus identifyed

An emergency ICD-10 code of **'U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified'** is assigned to a disease diagnosis of COVID-19 confirmed by laboratory testing.

U07.2, virus no identifyed

An emergency ICD-10 code of **'U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified'** is assigned to a clinical or epidemiological diagnosis of COVID-19 where laboratory confirmation is inconclusive or not available.

Both **U07.1** and **U07.2** may be used for mortality coding as cause of death.

ICD-11 International Classification of Diseases, 11th Revision

The global standard for diagnostic health information

RA01.0:

Code for the confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

RA01.1:

Code for clinical diagnosis (suspected or probable) of COVID-19.

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Post COVID-19 conditions

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- Since the notification of the first COVID-19 case in our Region, there were advances in scientific knowledge: source of infection; the pathogenesis and virulence of the virus; transmissibility; risk factors; effectiveness of prevention measures; diagnosis; and clinical management.

- Evidences of complications in the respiratory system, cardiovascular system, neuropsychiatric manifestations, etc.*

- However, there remain several gaps pertaining to these post-covid conditions that still require contribution from the scientific community.

* Epidemiological Alert: Complications and sequelae of COVID-19 - 12 August 2020
https://www.paho.org/en/documents/epidemiological-alert-complications-and-sequelae-covid-19-12-august-2020

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Coding post COVID-19 conditions

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U08   **Personal history of COVID-19**

U08.9Personal history of COVID-19, unspecified

> *Note:* This optional code is used to record an earlier episode of COVID-19, confirmed or probable that influences the person's health status, and the person no longer suffers of COVID-19. This code should not be used for primary mortality tabulation.

U09   **Post COVID-19 condition**

U09.9Post COVID-19 condition, unspecified

> *Note:* This optional code serves to allow the establishment of a link with COVID-19. This code is not to be used in cases that still are presenting COVID-19.

U10   **Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19**

U10.9Multisystem inflammatory syndrome associated with COVID-19, unspecified

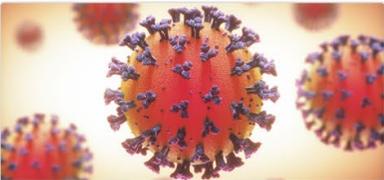# Resources

International guidelines for certification and classification (coding) of COVID-19 as cause of death
https://www.paho.org/en/documents/international-guidelines-certification-and-classification-coding-covid-19-cause-death

Virtual Course on Properly Completing Death Certificate
https://www.campusvirtualsp.org/en/course/virtual-course-properly-completing-death-certificates

PAHO Response

https://www.paho.org/es/temas/coronavirus/enfermedad-por-coronavirus-covid-19?gclid=CjwKCAjwlZf3BRABEiwA8Q0qq1tLpgc5uVp1eovZ0fzP_2oRzwUoWlgF592eauxlZXyQrdzlESuh-hoC92wQAvD_BwE

OMS Website COVID-19

WHO Technical Guides

PAHO Technical Documents

WHO Questions | Answers about COVID-19

Epidemiological Alerts and Reports

COVID-19 & Health Issues

Communication material

Evidence portal

PAHO response

Crédito: OPS/OMS

Many thanks!

Stay safe everyone!

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