“Electronic Death Certificate”
A Decisive Step towards Electronic Health Record

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The Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi, Pakistan
The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Karachi, Pakistan

- Started operations in 1985.
- AKUH has 654 beds in operation.
- Only hospital in Pakistan having both Joint Commission International Accreditation (JCIA) and ISO certifications.
The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Karachi, Pakistan

Volumes in 2015

- **Inpatient Discharges**: 19'877
- **Surgical Day Care**: 66'103

**Outpatient appointments**: 1'032'103
Health Information Management Services (HIMS)

- Management of 1.6 Million medical records.
- HIMS has multiple teams for operations management.

**Release of Information Unit (ROI)**

- Release of medical information in accordance with strict protocols.
- ROI Unit processes requests for copies of investigation reports, Birth certificates, Death verification letters
Importance of Death Certificate

- A legal document.
- Contains information about the cause of death.
Types of Death Certificate

*Manual certificate issued from Inpatient wards
Types of Death Certificate

*Manual certificate issued from Emergency Services*
Users of Death Certificates

- Residents
- Fellows
- Medical officers
- Physicians
Discrepancies in Manual Death Certificates

- Hastily prepared document.
- Lack of awareness about the legal consequences.
- Identification of error at the time of issuance.

Expectations/Deliverables:

- To explore the option of an “Electronic Death Certificate”
AKUH’s goal to computerized medical record.

Technology - Electronic Health Records (EHRs).

Electronic Death Certificate.
Rationale for Project Selection

- Unreadable hand written death certificate carbon copy.
- Increase in requests for amended Death Certificate.
- No electronic record, No Backup.
- Non standardized practice
Opportunity Statement / Project Mission

- Eliminate the chance of data loss.
- Reduce the chance of errors.
- Lifetime electronic record.
- Save residents time.
Project Scope

- Project covers:
  - Revision of handwritten death certificate.
  - Staff training and Development
  - And implementation of electronic death certificate system.

- Defined process for release of electronic death certificate.
Team Composition

Mr. Irfan Khan (Facilitator)
Ms. Huma Saeed (Author)
Mr. Uzair Ali Shaikh (Facilitator)
Stakeholder buy-in

- Associate Dean PGME.
- IT Director.
- Manager Nursing Services.
- Clinical Chairs of all services.
Irrelevant information was removed to reduce errors. These included place of birth, religion, occupation, nationality at the time of death and autopsy information.
Death Certificate Template Revision

*Electronic Certificate template*
Presented in Health Information Management Services Committee meeting on October 22, 2013

Built-in options for spellcheck and medical dictionary.
Training and Implementation

- Training for “Electronic Death Certificate” was arranged for all specialties.

- Electronic death certificate practice implemented in August 2014.
Training and Implementation
Post Project Sustainability

- Responsibility for monitoring electronic death certificates Issuance lies with Nursing office.

- Health Information Management Services responsibility would be to monitor and implement best practice on the ground.
Feedback on Electronic Death Certificate

- Do you think that introduction of “Electronic death certificate” is a time saving step?
  - 77.33%

- Do you agree that introduction of “Electronic death certificate” has increased the quality of death certificate?
  - 79.35%

- Do you agree that the process of “Electronic death certificate” release is a user friendly process?
  - 70.32%

- Would you recommend other services to move towards “Electronic Health Record”?
  - 85.16%
Thank You