

# Completing the Medical Certification Section

Michigan law requires most deaths to have the medical section of the death certificate certified within 48 hours of the event. In order to certify the medical portion of the death certificate electronically, certain fields must be completed from 27a through 41g.

- Fields 27a-c: Date signed will populate when the medical certifier electronically certifies the record, and license number/medical certifier information are built into the EDRS user profile.
- Fields 28a-c: Time of death and date/time pronounced dead, and field 4: date of death. These fields, in conjunction with boxes 4 and 41a & b if applicable, should form a logical sequence.
- Field 29: Medical Examiner contacted? Please select yes or no. The Medical Examiner should be contacted for any case that may be due to external circumstances, or when the death was unexpected.
- Field 30: Place of death. Select the best descriptor of the location of death from dropdown.. If hospital is selected, field 31 will become available to indicate where in the hospital the death occurred.
- Field 32: If there is a medical examiner case number, enter it here.
- Field 33: Name of attending physician if other than certifier. If no other attending physician, this field can be left blank.
- Field 34a: Name of certifying physician is a required field. If you are the certifying physician, this field will populate based on your EDRS user credentials when the record is electronically certified.
- Field 36: Part 1 is for the cause of death and interval between onset and death. Use fields a, b, c, and d as needed to show the immediate, intermediate and underlying cause of death. Part 2 is for other significant conditions that may have contributed to the death but did not result in the underlying cause.
- Field 37: Indicate if tobacco use contributed to the death.
- Field 38: If the decedent is female age 5-75, indicate the pregnancy status at the time of death by selecting one of the options in the dropdown list.
- Field 39: Indicate the manner of death. If the death was anything other than “natural”, the medical examiner *must* be contacted, and field 29 should be marked “yes”.
- Fields 40a-b: Indicate if an autopsy was performed, and if so, were findings available prior to completion of the cause of death.
- Field 41: If the death occurred under circumstances that require a referral to a medical examiner, then fields 41a-g will need to be completed.

Resources are available in the medical certifier section of [www.MichiganEDRS.org](http://www.MichiganEDRS.org) for best practices on completing the cause of death.