Welcome

Dr. Amy Gruszecki, American Forensics
Amber Myers, Staff Attorney, TJCTC
Jessica Foreman, Education Manager, TJCTC
Today’s Webinar

INTRODUCTION  PREPARED MATERIAL  QUESTIONS?

Dr. Amy Gruszecki, DO
Forensic Pathologist

Accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners
COVID-19 Testing

Is your office seeing a higher volume for inquests during the pandemic?
What special procedures do you have in place because of the pandemic?

What kind of precautions should JPs take when they suspect COVID-19 on an inquest?
What precautions would you recommend when the JP goes home after an inquest?

What are some screening questions that a JP should ask law enforcement prior to going out to a scene?
What kind of screening questions should be asked of the family of the deceased in light of COVID-19?

What are some common questions you have been getting asked lately?
Any advice on what NOT to do prior to sending a body for autopsy?

Let’s talk briefly about chain of causation on death certificates.
Pre-existing conditions? Contributing factors? What are some common chains of causation?

Are there any pandemic policies that you think will be adopted going forward?
Cause and Manner of Death Resources

National Center for Health Statistics Training on Writing Cause-of-Death Statements & other CDC Resources: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/writing_cod_statements.htm


CDC “blue sheets” (natural deaths): https://www.dshs.texas.gov/uploadedFiles/Content/Chief_Operating_Officer/vs/field/TxEVER/blue_form.pdf


Updated Inquests Deskbook (2nd Ed.)

https://www.tjctc.org/tjctc-resources/Deskbooks.html

Cause and Manner of Death is discussed in Chapter 5 – pages 21-28

° On page 22 you will find a table of resources with links to help you in filling out death certificates
Proper Language for Heart Attack on a Death Certificate

Do not use "cardiac arrest" or "cardio-pulmonary arrest" on death certificates. These phrases literally mean the heart stopped or the heart and lungs stopped which happens to everyone when they die. Better phrases are:

Hypertensive cardiovascular disease (aka long-standing high blood pressure disease).

Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (aka clogged coronary arteries - may have had a heart stent placed, or cardiac bypass surgery).

Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (both as above).

You can also legitimately use the word "probable" in front of either - for instance "Probable hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease".

Contact Dr. G

American Forensics
2452 U.S. 80 Frontage Rd Suite 200
Mesquite, TX 75149
214-221-2700

https://usaforensics.com/

Dr. Amy Gruszecki’s email: drg@usaforensics.com