



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 10, 2017
TO: Health Care Providers and Other Interested Parties
FROM: Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance (MMMS)
SUBJECT: MANDATORY MATERNAL DEATH REPORTING GUIDANCE

On January 5, 2017, Governor Snyder signed Public Act 479 of 2016 into law with an effective date of April 6, 2017. This law states that a physician or an individual in charge of a health facility who is present for or is aware of a maternal death shall submit information regarding that death at the time and in the manner specified or approved by the department for inclusion in the health information system established under section 2616.

The definitions associated with this new law are as follows:

- A physician is defined as any individual who is licensed or otherwise authorized to engage in the practice of medicine or osteopathic medicine and surgery within the State of Michigan as stated under article 15.
- A health facility is defined as any hospital, freestanding surgical outpatient facility, or other outpatient facility that is licensed or otherwise authorized to operate within the State of Michigan under article 17.
- A maternal death is defined as a death of a woman who was pregnant at the time of her death or within 365 days before her death.

In accordance with this new law, all physicians and health facilities will be required to complete and submit the attached reporting form to the department for all maternal deaths that they are present for and/or are aware of. In addition to the information that is requested on the maternal death reporting form, physicians and health facilities are also expected to submit the medical record information that they have available for each maternal death. The department will expect to receive all types of medical record information including, but not limited to, discharge summaries, autopsy reports, and emergency medical services reports.

The department requires access to this information so that each maternal death can be thoroughly reviewed by the Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Project with a goal of identifying and implementing policies that could prevent future maternal deaths from occurring.

Your assistance is crucial for this public health surveillance to further promote and protect the health and well-being of women, infants and families in Michigan and is very much appreciated. For more information about the new mandatory maternal death reporting law or Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance in general, please feel free to contact Chris Fussman, MS, Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Section Manager by email at fussmanc@michigan.gov or by telephone at 517-335-9456.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Fussman".

Chris Fussman, MS
Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Section Manager
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services