



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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October 15, 2014

TO: Hospital Administrators
Hospital Birth Registrars
Hospital Fetal Death Coordinators
Massachusetts Boards of Health

FROM: Antonio Sousa
State Registrar, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

SUBJECT: MATERIALS FOR IMPLEMENTATION:
REVISED REPORT OF FETAL DEATH

MEMORANDUM

The Department of Public Health recently revised the Report of Fetal Death (Form R-304 5/11) in order to be in compliance with federal reporting requirements with the National Centers for Health Statistics (NCHS) which is an agency within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The revised Report of Fetal Death (Form R-304 102014) replaces the Report of Fetal Death (Form R-304 5/11) **effective November 1, 2014**.

Enclosed with this memorandum are materials prepared by the Department of Public Health that you need to provide to physicians and to nurse practitioners who certify and complete the Report of Fetal Death for reportable fetal deaths. Please familiarize yourself with the enclosed materials that explain the revised report in more detail. If you have questions or concerns about the revised Report of Fetal and its corresponding documents, please contact Maria Vu at (617) 740-2681 or via email at maria.vu@state.ma.us.

Please note:

Hospitals **must use** the revised “Report of Fetal Death” (Form R304_00 FINAL 102014) when a **reportable fetal death occurs in a hospital effective November 1, 2014**. It is especially important that all “Reports of Fetal Death” are completed accurately and are submitted to the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics within 10 days of the delivery as required by Massachusetts mandatory reporting laws (see MGL, Chapter 111, Section 202).

Enclosures:

- Attachment 1: Form R304_00 FINAL 102014 (Revised Report of Fetal Death)
- Attachment 2: Instructions for Completing the Report of Fetal Death
- Attachment 3: Form R304W-102014 HOSPITAL WORKSHEET
- Attachment 4: Hospital Manual for Report of Fetal Death (Form R304-102014)