Expected Death in the Home Protocol

EDITH

Guidelines for Implementation

Hospice Palliative Care Teams for Champlain
Table of Contents

1. Overview ........................................................................................................................................ 3
2. Legislation ........................................................................................................................................ 3
3. Process 4
   a. Completion of the Expected Death in the Home Planning Form (Appendix 2) ................................................................. 4
   b. Checklist for Expected Death in the Home (Appendix 4) ................. 5
   c. When Death Occurs: ................................................................................................................... 5
   d. Pronouncement of Death by the Nurse ...................................................................................... 5
   e. Certifying Death and Signing the Death Certificate ................................................................. 6

Appendix 1 – Do Not Resuscitate Confirmation Form .............................................................. 7
Appendix 2 – Expected Death in the Home Planning Form......................................................... 8
Appendix 3 – Funeral Home Transfer Form .................................................................................. 10
Appendix 4 - Medical Certificate of Death .................................................................................... 12
Appendix 5 – Process for Completion of Expected Death in the Home ................................. 14
Appendix 6 – Checklist for Expected Death in the Home.......................................................... 15
1. **Overview**

The Expected Death in the Home Protocol (EDITH) supports end of life care in the home and an individual’s expressed wish for no resuscitation when their heart stops beating or they stop breathing.

Expected death refers to when, in the opinion of the health care team, the client is irreversibly and irreparably terminally ill; that is, there is no available treatment to restore health or the client refuses the treatment that is available. \(^1\), \(^2\)

The EDITH Protocol supports the development of an End of Life Plan to identify the plan for pronouncement/certification of death in the home to allow for the timely removal of the body to the funeral home. When the Physician supports the nurse pronouncing the death, the Physician agrees to visit the funeral home or the funeral home agrees to visit the physician within 24 hours of the death to sign the Death Certificate. This reduces the stress for the family when death occurs and supports Physicians to care for end of life clients in the community setting.

The use of the EDITH protocol will reduce the inappropriate use of Emergency Services such as Police, EMS, Fire and the Coroner.

2. **Legislation**

The *Health Care Consent Act, 1996*, and the *Substitute Decisions Act, 1992*, enable a capable person to create an advance directive. Through an advance directive, the person can indicate the kinds of treatment he or she would like to be accepted or rejected for, in the event a person becomes incapable. If the person becomes incapable, these directives would be interpreted by the person’s substitute decision-maker. Under the *Health Care Consent Act, 1996*, resuscitation is considered to be a treatment. There is no legal requirement to obtain a Physician’s written, telephone or verbal DNR order. \(^3\)

The College of Nurses of Ontario Practice Guideline- Guiding Decisions About End-Of-Life Care, 2009, states “all nurses have the authority to pronounce death when clients are expected to die and their plan of treatment does not include resuscitation. While RNs and RPNs do not have the authority to certify death in any situation, Nurse Practitioners do have the authority to certify an expected death, except in specific circumstances.” \(^4\)

Registered Nurses and Registered Practical Nurses are not legally authorized to complete and sign medical certificates of death. \(^5\)

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2 The definition may vary across organizational and practice environments. There is no legal definition of expected death.
3 College of Nurses of Ontario, Practice Guideline: Guiding Decisions About End-of-Life Care, 2009
4 Ibid
5 Ministry of Consumer & Business Services August 2010, Handbook on Medical Certification of Death
Expected Death in the Home Protocol

In Ontario Physicians and Nurse Practitioners (NP) are able to determine the cause of death and sign the medical Certificate of Death.

The College of Nurses of Ontario Nurse Practitioners Practice Resources states: “The provincial Vital Statistics Act gives NPs the authority to complete a Medical Certificate of Death (Form 16) in specific circumstances. This certificate is part of the death registration form and is an important legal document detailing the fact and circumstances of death. NPs can complete a Medical Certificate of Death of the deceased when:

- the NP had primary responsibility for the deceased’s care
- the death was expected
- a documented medical diagnosis of a terminal disease had been made by a medical practitioner
- there was a predictable pattern of decline, and
- no unexpected events or complications arose.6

The Do Not Resuscitate Confirmation Form – DNR C may be completed by a health care professional (MD, NP, RN, RPN, CM/CC) to direct paramedic and firefighter not to initiate CPR. They may administer therapies to provide comfort or alleviate pain in the event they are called to the home. (See Appendix 1.)

3. Process
   a. Completion of the Expected Death in the Home Planning Form (Appendix 2)

   The Palliative Performance Scale (PPS) may be used as a guide for situations listed below.

   The Health Care Professional (MD, NP, RN, RPN, CM/CC):

   - Initiates the discussion re advanced care planning with the client; family; power of attorney (POA); and /or substitute decision maker (SDM) (before PPS 60%)

   - Completes the Advanced Care Directives section on the form indicating that the client has an expressed wish for no resuscitation when their heart stops beating or they stop breathing

   - Completes the DNR C form

   - Contacts the Physician to discuss the plan for certification/pronouncement of death (before PPS 30%)

   - Confirms with the family that the funeral home has been contacted

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6 College of Nurses of Ontario, NP Practice Resources: Issuing Medical Certificates of Death

Champlain CCAC May 2015
**Expected Death in the Home Protocol**

- Documents the Advanced Care Directives, Pronouncement Plan, Funeral Home Information and Certification Plan

- Faxes Copy 1 of the Expected Death in the Home Planning Form to CCAC. The CM/CC will fax it to the Physician/Nurse Practitioner, all CCAC Service Providers and the Funeral Home

**b. Checklist for Expected Death in the Home (Appendix 4)**

Initiates Planning Checklist for Expected Death in the Home Form to remain in the Chart in the Home

**c. When Death Occurs:**

- The family/caregivers/unregulated service providers:
  - Does not call 911
  - Contacts the Nurse/Nursing agency to have death pronounced OR
  - Contacts the Physician/NP to pronounce and certify death

**d. Pronouncement of Death by the Nurse**

**Nurse:**

- Visits to pronounce the death and support family

- Notifies the Physician or NP of the client’s death; notes date and time of death; and reminds Physician/NP of the responsibility to sign the death certificate within 24 hours (the Physician/NP agrees to visit the funeral home or the funeral home agrees to visit the Physician/NP)

- If death occurs during the night, the nursing agency will inform the physician as soon as possible at the start of the day

- In cases of injury or trauma prior to death (e.g., fall, fractured hip, etc), notifies the Coroner before releasing the body to the Funeral Home. The Coroner will make the decision if an autopsy is needed and if yes, the Coroner will make the necessary arrangements to have the body sent to the morgue. The nurse notifies the Coroner by calling the 24 hour dispatch # 1-855-299-4100 or 1-416-314-4100

- Notifies the Funeral Home of death and arranges for removal of body in keeping with family wishes

- Completes the Funeral Home Transfer Form (Appendix 3)

- Ensures that the Funeral Home Transfer Form (Appendix 3) and Medical Certificate of Death (Form 16) accompanies the deceased to the Funeral Home; and documents this in the progress notes in the CITH
Expected Death in the Home Protocol

- Informs the CCAC Care Coordinator of the client’s death, as soon as possible

- Completes a Discharge Service Provider Report (SPR) and forwards it to the CCAC

- Takes the Chart in the Home from the client’s home and forwards it to the CCAC

e. **Certifying Death and Signing the Death Certificate**

Physician/NP:

- Signs Medical Certificate of Death within 24 hours; agrees to visit the funeral home; or the funeral home agrees to visit the Physician/NP for completion of death certificate.

Funeral Home:

- Ensures that the Medical Certificate of Death is appropriately signed within 24 hours.

In the event the Attending Physician/NP is not immediately available, his/her alternate, will be contacted. If no Physician/NP can be contacted to certify death with 24 hours, the Funeral Home will contact the on-call Coroner for assistance.
# Do Not Resuscitate Confirmation

**To Direct the Practice of Paramedics and Firefighters**

Confidential when completed

When this form is signed by a physician (M.D.), registered nurse (R.N.), registered nurse in the extended class (R.N. (EC)) or registered practical nurse (R.P.N.), a paramedic or firefighter **will not** initiate basic or advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) (see point #1) and **will** provide necessary comfort measures (see point #2) to the patient named below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient’s name – please print clearly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surname</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **“Do Not Resuscitate”** means that the paramedic (according to scope of practice) or firefighter (according to skill level) **will not** initiate basic or advanced cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) such as:
   - Chest compression;
   - Defibrillation;
   - Artificial ventilation;
   - Insertion of an oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airway;
   - Endotracheal intubation;
   - Transcutaneous pacing;
   - Advanced resuscitation drugs such as, but not limited to, vasopressors, antiarrhythmic agents and opioid antagonists.

2. For the purposes of providing comfort (palliative) care, the paramedic (according to scope of practice) or firefighter (according to skill level) **will** provide comfort measures necessary to provide comfort or alleviate pain. These include but are not limited to the provision of oxygen, analgesics, sedation, salbutamol, glucagon, epinephrine, for anaphylaxis, naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory), ASA or benzodiazepines.

The signature below confirms with respect to the above-named patient, that the following condition (check one [] if) has been met and documented in the patient’s health record.

- [ ] A current plan of treatment exists that reflects the patient’s expressed wish when capable, or consent of the substitute decision maker when the patient is incapable, that CPR not be included in the patient’s plan of treatment.
- [ ] The physician’s current opinion is that CPR will almost certainly not benefit the patient and is not part of the plan of treatment, and the physician has discussed this with the capable patient, or the substitute decision-maker when the patient is incapable.

Check one [ ] of the following:

- [ ] M.D.
- [ ] R.N.
- [ ] R.N. (EC)
- [ ] R.P.N.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print name in full</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surname</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date (yyyy/mm/dd)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Each form has a unique serial number.
- Use of photocopies is permitted only after this form has been fully completed.
**EXPECTED DEATH IN THE HOME PLANNING FORM**

### Advance Care Directive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Name:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(print)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>Date of Birth:</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>☐ POA/SDM</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Telephone:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Telephone:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The signature below identifies the above name person (or their substitute decision-maker, if incapable) has confirmed their expressed wish that resuscitation is not included in the treatment plan and has completed the Do Not Resuscitate Confirmation (DNR C) form.

Serial number of DNR C: __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Care Provider’s Name &amp; Agency (print)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➔ RN ➔ RPN ➔ NP ➔ MD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Funeral Home Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funeral Home:</th>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Print Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tel #:</th>
<th>Fax #:</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pronouncement Plan / Certification Plan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tel #</th>
<th>Fax #</th>
<th>After Hours #</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Physician contact no. in event of death)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(Physician name/Nurse Practitioner)</th>
<th>Tel #</th>
<th>Fax #</th>
<th>After Hours #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Physician contact no. in event of death)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. ☐ Physician/NP will pronounce the death and sign the certificate of death.

2. ☐ Nurse will pronounce death and Physician/NP will sign the Medical Certificate of Death within 24 hours of death.

Plan confirmed with MD/NP __________________________ by __________________________ at ________________ by __________________________

Nursing Agency __________________________ After Hours #: __________________________ Date: ________________

Agency contact no. in event of death: __________________________

Expected Death in the Home April 2015
GUIDELINE

Expected Death in the Home Planning Form

The Health Care Professional (MD, NP, RN, RPN) who initiates the discussion re advanced care planning is responsible to complete the Expected Death In The Home (EDITH) Planning Form and notify the CCAC Care Coordinator.

Advance Care Directives

The Health care Professional:
- Discusses advanced care planning with the client/POA/SDM
- Documents that the client has an expressed wish for no resuscitation when their heart stops beating or they stop breathing
- Documents the serial number of the DNRC

Funeral Home Information

The Health Care Professional:
- Obtains the information re: Funeral Home from the family and permission to share information
- Completes this section on form

Pronouncement Plan and Certification Plan

The Health Care Professional:
- Confirms the pronouncement plan and certification plan with the Physician/NP
- Documents plan on the form and signs and dates form
Expected Death in the Home Protocol

Appendix 3 – Funeral Home Transfer Form

FUNERAL HOME TRANSFER FORM

Client Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: ____________

Address: ________________________________

Pronouncement Information

Pronounced at home on ___________________________ at ___________________________

(Date – dd/mm/yy) (Time)

by ___________________________________________ (Agency)

□ MD/NP ___________________________ notified at ___________________________

(Physician/NP name) (Date – dd/mm/yy & time)

Telephone #: _____________________________

(Physician/NP telephone number)

Funeral Home ___________________________ contacted at ___________________________

(Funeral Home/ contact name) (Date – dd/mm/yy & time)

OR

□ Nursing Agency to notify MD as soon as possible that day, if death occurs during the night

□ MD/NP ___________________________ Telephone #: _____________________________

(Physician/NP name) (Physician/NP telephone number)

Once death has been pronounced, this form will enable a funeral home to remove the deceased prior to signature of the Medical Certificate of Death. The Funeral Director will arrange with the Attending Physician/Nurse Practitioner for completion of the Medical Certificate of Death. In the event that the Attending Physician/NP is not immediately available, his/her Alternate will be contacted. If no Physician/NP can be contacted to certify death within 24 hours, the funeral home will contact the On Call Coroner for assistance.

It is requested that a Medical Certificate of Death be left attached to this form (not yet completed and unsigned by Physician/NP). The DNR Confirmation Form must be completed in full, and signed to be acted upon by Paramedics/Firefighters.
GUIDELINE

Funeral Home Transfer Form

Pronouncement Information

Health Care Professional:

- Completes client identification information
- Documents date (dd/mm/yy), time, name and agency of person pronouncing
- Documents name of Physician/NP, date (dd/mm/yy), telephone number and time they were notified
- Documents name of Funeral Home, date (dd/mm/yy) and time they were notified
- Funeral Home Transfer Form to accompany the deceased to the Funeral Home
# Medical Certificate of Death - Form 16

**Information about the Deceased**

1. Name of deceased (last, first, middle)
2. Date of death [month - by name, day, year (in full)]
3. Sex [M or F]
4. Age
5. If under 1 yr: Months Days
6. If under 1 day: Hours Minutes
7. Gestation age
8. Birth weight
9. Place of death (name of facility or location)
   - [ ] hospital
   - [ ] nursing home
   - [ ] residence
   - [ ] other
10. City, town, village, on or near which deceased resided at time of death
11. Regional municipality, county or district

## Cause of Death

**Cause of Death**

11. Part I
   - Immediate cause of death
     (a) ____________________________
     (b) ____________________________
     (c) ____________________________
   - Antecedent cause, if any, giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating the underlying cause last
     (d) ____________________________
   - Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not causally related to the immediate cause (a) above
     (e) ____________________________

12. If deceased was a female, did the death occur:
   - [ ] during pregnancy (including abortion and ectopic pregnancy)
   - [ ] within 42 days thereafter
   - [ ] between 43 days and 1 year thereafter

13. Was the deceased dead on arrival at the hospital? [ ] Yes [ ] No
14. Was there a surgical procedure within 28 days of death? [ ] Yes [ ] No
15. Date of surgery (m/d/y)
16. Reason for surgery and operative findings

**Autopsy particulars**

17. Autopsy being held? [ ] Yes [ ] No
18. Does the cause of death stated above take account of autopsy findings? [ ] Yes [ ] No
19. May further information relating to the cause of death be available later? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Accidental or violent death (if applicable)**

20. If accident, suicide, homicide or undetermined (specify)
21. Place of injury (e.g. home, farm, highway, etc.)
22. Date of injury (m/d/y)
23. How did injury occur? (describe circumstances)

## Certification

By signing below, you certify that the information on this form is correct to the best of your knowledge.

24. Your signature (physician, coroner, RN(EC), other)
25. Date (m/d/y)

**TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DIVISION REGISTRAR**

By signing below, I am satisfied that the information in this Medical certificate of death and the Statement of death is correct and sufficient and I agree to register the death.

Signature [ ]

Date (m/d/y) __________________
Registration number _________________
Div. reg. code no. ___________________

For the use of the Office of the Registrar General only

Persons information contained in this form is collected under the authority of the Vital Statistics Act, R.S.O. 1990, C.V.2 and will be used to register and record the births, stillbirths, deaths, marriages, registrations of change of name, corrections or amendments, provide certified copies, abstracts, certificates, search records, research, medical, law enforcement, adoption and adoption disclosure purposes. Questions about this collection should be directed to the Deputy Registrar General at P.O. Box 4920, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L9.

11291(07/01)

Form to accompany the deceased to the Funeral Home

Champlain CCAC May 2015

Page 12 of 16
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CERTIFYING PHYSICIAN OR CORONER

The Vital Statistics Act, (Section 21, Sub-section 3) requires the legally qualified medical practitioner or coroner to complete and sign this form forthwith after the death, investigation or inquest, as the case may be, and deliver it to the funeral director in charge of the body, who, in turn, must remit it to the local division registrar before the death can be officially registered and a burial permit issued (Sect. 22).

Cause of Death - The morbid conditions relating to death on the Medical Certificate of Death are divided into two groups. Part I includes the "immediate cause" and the "antecedent causes" and Part II includes, other significant conditions contributing to the death but not causally related to the "immediate cause". In most cases a statement of cause under Part II will suffice. The entry of a single cause is preferable where this adequately describes the case (see Example 1). Where the physician finds it necessary to record more than one cause it is important that these be stated in the order provided on the form which is indicative of their mutual relationship. Information is sought in this organized fashion so that the selection of the cause for tabulation may be made in the light of the outfitter's viewpoint.

a) Purpose of medical certification of death - The principal purposes are to establish the fact of death, and to provide an on-going mortality data resource for measuring health problems, guiding health programmes, and evaluating health promotion and disease-control activities.

b) Cause-of-death assignment - For statistical purposes the cause selected for coding and tabulation of the official cause-of-death statistics is the "underlying cause" of death, i.e. "the disease or injury which initiated the train of events leading to death". This cause ordinarily will be the last condition which is mentioned in Part I of the Cause of Death section of the form.

c) Approximate interval between onset and death - This is often of great value in selecting the underlying cause for statistical purposes (as described above). Where these intervals are not known or are uncertain, an estimate should be recorded.

d) Maternal deaths - Qualify all diseases resulting from pregnancy, abortion, miscarriage, or childbirth, e.g. "puerperal septicaemia", eclampsia, arising during pregnancy". Distinguish between septicaemia associated with abortion and that associated with childbirth.

e) Cancer - In all cases the organ or part FIRST affected, i.e. the primary site of the neoplasm, should be specified.

f) Items 16, 17 Autopsy and autopsy findings - An indication of whether or not an autopsy is being held and whether the cause of death stated takes into account autopsy findings is valuable in assessing the reliability of cause-of-death statistics. Where an autopsy is being held and the recorded cause of death does not take account of autopsy findings, a supplementary enquiry of the certifying physician may be initiated by the Registrar General.

g) Item 18, Further information - If there is an indication that "further information relating to the cause of death may be available later" - from autopsy or other findings - the Registrar General will initiate a supplementary enquiry of the certifying physician or coroner.

The following examples illustrate the essential principles in completing the cause of death certificate -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAUSE OF DEATH</th>
<th>Part I</th>
<th>Part II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immediate cause of death:</td>
<td>Example 1 - (a)</td>
<td>Example 1 - (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antecedent causes, if any, giving rise to the immediate cause (a) above, stating the underlying cause last:</td>
<td>Example 2 - Acute appendicitis</td>
<td>Example 2 - Acute appendicitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 1 - (b)</td>
<td>Example 3 - Cancer of lung (metastatic)</td>
<td>Example 3 - Cancer of breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 2 - Acute appendicitis</td>
<td>Example 4 - Coronary thrombosis</td>
<td>Example 4 - Chronic nephritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 3 - Cancer of lung (metastatic)</td>
<td>Example 5 - Uremia</td>
<td>Example 5 - Cancer of the breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 4 - Coronary thrombosis</td>
<td>Example 5 - Cancer of the breast</td>
<td>Example 5 - Chronic nephritis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 5 - Uremia</td>
<td>Example 5 - Chronic nephritis</td>
<td>Example 5 - Cancer of the breast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example 5 - Cancer of the breast</td>
<td>Example 5 - Chronic nephritis</td>
<td>Example 5 - Cancer of the breast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Confidentiality - The Vital Statistics Act specifically protects the confidentiality of the physician's medical certification as follows:

"Sec. 55 (1) No division registrar, sub-registrar, funeral director or person employed in the service of Her Majesty shall communicate or allow to be communicated to any person not entitled thereto any information obtained under this Act, or allow any such person to inspect or have access to any records containing information under this Act."

Under the Office of the Registrar General entitlement policy next-of-kin may apply for a certified copy of this document.

NOTE: The special stillbirth registration forms (Forms 7 and B) must be used when registering a stillbirth.

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the Vital Statistics Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.V4 and will be used to register and record the births, still-births, deaths, marriages, additions or change of name, corrections or amendments, provide certified copies, extracts, certificates, search notices, photocopies, and for statistical, research, medical, law enforcement, adoption and adoption disclosure purposes.

Questions about this collection should be directed to:

Deputy Registrar General
P.O. Box 4600
189 Rea River Road
Thunder Bay, Ontario
P7B 6L8
Telephone 1-800-461-2156

Form to accompany the deceased to the Funeral Home
Expected Death in the Home Protocol

Appendix 5 – Process for Completion of Expected Death in the Home

Process for Completion of Expected Death in the Home Planning Form and Funeral Home Transfer Form

- Advanced Care Directive: Initiates discussion re advanced care planning and confirms patient’s expressed wish re DNR and wish to die at home. Completes section on form and the DNR C form.
- Pronouncement Plan: Discusses pronouncement plan with Physician/NP to determine Physician/NP role. Documents plan, signs and dates form.
- Funeral Home Information: Obtains information re Funeral Home from the family. Completes this section on form and ensures Funeral Home is aware of completion of the protocol.
- Pronouncement Information: On notification of client death the nurse visits and pronounces death, documents date and time of death.
- Nurse/Agency contacts Physician to inform of client death and confirms that Physician/NP will complete Medical Certificate of Death at Funeral Home within 24 hours.
- Nurse contacts Funeral Home to make arrangements to remove body.
- Medical Certificate of Death and Funeral Home Transfer form to go to Funeral Home with deceased; nurse to document in Progress notes.
- Nurse completes a Discharge Service Provider Report; takes the CITH and forwards them to CCAC.

The Funeral Director will arrange with the Attending Physician or Nurse Practitioner completion of the Medical Certificate of Death. In the event that the Attending Physician or NP is not immediately available, his/her alternate will be contacted. If no Physician or NP can be contacted to certify death within 24 hours, the funeral home will contact the On Call Coroner for assistance.
Expected Death in the Home Protocol

Appendix 6 – Checklist for Expected Death in the Home

CHECKLIST FOR EXPECTED DEATH IN THE HOME (EDITH)

| DATE (dd/mm/yy) | TASK: These tasks are to be completed by the Health Care Professionals: Physician, NP, RN, RPN, CC | Discussed | HCP Initial | Reported or Fax
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Advance Care Planning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Client/Family goals for care and preference for place of care reviewed, identified and understood</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Advance directive reviewed and in place</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Client’s advance directives are documented</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Assessment of psychosocial needs of client and family discussed and plan in place, as needed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>e. Emotional support re: client/family feelings, fears, grief loss</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>f. Client/family has adequate support systems in place – able to assist with care at home</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g. Assessment of cultural/spiritual needs of client/family discussed and plan in place</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>h. Support and guidance available to cope with symptoms and emotional responses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>i. Plan in place for caregiver relief or respite care if needed (includes hospice volunteers)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>j. Teaching/education of family/caregiver completed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• What to expect as illness progresses; review brochure “When Death Occurs at Home”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Contact person(s) when changes occur in client’s condition</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Client/family consents to information being shared with HCP and Funeral Home</td>
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<td></td>
<td>k. Family encouraged to contact Funeral Home to inform them of EDITH</td>
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<td>2. Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Status:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Client/family directives regarding resuscitation and other interventions addressed</td>
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<td>b. DNR C is complete and in the Chart in the Home</td>
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<td>c. DNR section is completed on the EDITH Planning Form</td>
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<td>3. EDITH Plan:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Physician/NP contact information completed on EDITH Planning Form</td>
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<td></td>
<td>b. Physician/NP agrees that the nurse will pronounce death (RN, RPN)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Physician/NP will pronounce death</td>
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<td></td>
<td>d. Physician/NP agrees to visit the home/funeral home or the funeral home agrees to visit the Physician/NP (within 24 hours) to sign the death certificate</td>
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<td>e. HCP obtains funeral home information and completes section on EDITH Planning Form</td>
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<td>f. Funeral Home agrees to remove body without a completed death certificate</td>
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</table>
## Expected Death in the Home Protocol

### 4. Communication:
- a. Nurse updates the CC on the EDITH plan
- b. Nurse faxes copy of completed EDITH Planning Form to CC for distribution to HCP
- c. In cases of injury or trauma prior to death (e.g., fall, fractured hip, etc), nurse notifies the Coroner before releasing the body to the Funeral Home by calling the 24 hour dispatch # 1-855-299-4100 or 1-416-314-4100
- d. Nurse/Agency notifies the CC and the Physician or NP of client’s death and confirms with Physician/NP of their responsibility to sign the death certificate within 24 hours
- e. Funeral Home is notified of death and arranges for removal of body in keeping with family wishes.

### 5. Documentation:
- a. Nurse pronounces and completes the Funeral Home Transfer Form
- b. Nurse provides the Funeral Home Transfer Form and the Medical Certificate of Death Form for transfer with the deceased
- c. Nurse completes a Discharge Service Provider Report (SPR) and faxes it to the CCAC
- d. Nurse takes the Chart in the Home from the client’s home and forwards it to the CCAC

Completed by: ________________________  Agency: ________________________  Date: ________________________

Completed by: ________________________  Agency: ________________________  Date: ________________________

Completed by: ________________________  Agency: ________________________  Date: ________________________