

06 November 2009

Important Notice

Dear Member

Re: Amendments to Queensland Coroners Act

I am writing to notify you of the recent legislative changes with regard to the notification of deaths to the coroner.

These changes, effective from 2 November 2009, have created more categories of deaths reportable to the coroner for medical practitioners in Queensland.

The change most relevant to health care professionals is the requirement to report 'health care related' deaths (replacing the requirement to report 'deaths that are not reasonably expected to be the outcome of a health care procedure').

The words 'health care' includes a health procedure or any care, treatment, advice, service or goods provided for the benefit of health. Health procedure includes any surgical, diagnostic or other health related procedure including a consultation or giving an anaesthetic or other drug.

A death is reportable under this category if:

1. The health care caused or contributed to the death, or a failure to provide health care caused or contributed to the death; AND
2. Death was an unexpected outcome of the health care being provided.

For more information about the interpretation of the new provisions and your obligations to notify reportable deaths, download [Information for Health Professionals - Office of the State Coroner Queensland](#)

I encourage you to contact our Claims and Advisory Services Team on 1800 011 255 if you have any concerns or questions about the changes to notifications of death to the coroner.

Yours sincerely,



A/Prof Julian Rait
President
MDA National (on behalf of the MDA National Group)

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