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“Now, I would like to ask you about the circumstances surrounding (insert decedent’s name) medical history.”

2. *“Please tell me about his/her general health, health on the day s/he died, and about the death itself.”*

Record a brief synopsis of the events surrounding the death as related by the informant:

“Some of the remaining questions may repeat information already provided, but it helps us to ask these items specifically.”

3. Where was (insert decedent name) when s/he died?

- Home 0
- Work 1
- Public building 2
- Bus or public transportation 3
- In a car 4
- Nursing home 5
- In an emergency room 6
- In an ambulance 7
- In a hospital 8
- Other 9
- Unknown 10

3a. Was anyone present when s/he died?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

3b. If s/he died at home, was s/he found:

- In bed 0
- In a chair 1
- On the floor 2
- Elsewhere 3 specify: _____
- Unknown 4

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4. Was anyone close enough to hear (insert decedent's name) if s/he had called out?

- No 0
 Yes 1
 Unknown 2

5. How long was it between the time (insert decedent's name) was last known to be alive and the time s/he was found dead?

- Less than 5 minutes 0
 5 minutes to 1 hour 1
 1 to 24 hours 2
 Longer than 24 hours 3
 Unknown 4

6. Please tell me who was present. (check all that apply)

- Self 0 (skip to question 8)
 Health care person(s) 1
 Other person(s) 2

7. When was the last time you saw (insert decedent's name) prior to his/her death?

- Less than 5 minutes 0
 5 minutes to 1 hour 1
 1 to 24 hours 2
 Longer than 24 hours 3
 Unknown 4

HISTORY

The next few questions concern (insert decedent's name) medical history.

8. Was s/he restricted to home, able to leave home only with assistance or great effort, or was his/her activity unrestricted?

- Restricted to home 0
 Able to leave home only with assistance or great effort 1
 Unrestricted 2

9. Was s/he hospitalized within the four weeks prior to death?

- No 0 Skip to question 13
 Yes 1
 Unknown 2 Skip to question 13

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10. What was the reason for the hospitalization? (select all that apply)

- Heart attack or heart disease 0
- Stroke 1
- Heart surgery 2
- Surgical procedure (other than heart) 3
- Emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) 4
- Pneumonia 5
- Infection 6
- Other condition 7 specify: _____
- Unknown 8

11. What was the date of the hospitalization:

/ /

12. What was the name and location of the hospital?

13. Was (insert decedent's name) seen by a doctor at an emergency room or in any other facility in the last four weeks prior to death?

- No 0 Skip to question 15
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2 Skip to question 15

13a. What was the reason for this visit to an emergency room or doctors office? (select all that apply)

- Heart attack or heart disease 0
- Stroke 1
- Heart surgery 2
- Surgical procedure (other than heart) 3
- Emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) 4
- Pneumonia 5
- Infection 6
- Other condition 7 specify: _____
- Unknown 8

14. What was the name and address of this physician or emergency room?

SYMPTOMS

“The next set of questions deals specifically with acute symptoms such as pain, discomfort that (insert decedent’s name) may have experienced at the time of his/her death.”

15. Did s/he experience pain, discomfort or tightness in the chest, left arm or jaw?

- No 0 Skip to question 22
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2 Skip to question 22

16. Did the pain, discomfort or tightness specifically involve the chest?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

16a. Did (insert decedent’s name) ever take nitroglycerin for this pain?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

17. Were these episodes new, or had they occurred previously?

- New symptoms 0 Skip to question 22
- Previous symptoms 1
- Unknown 2

18. Were the episodes getting longer or more frequent?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

19. Were the episodes getting more severe?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

****If No or Unknown to Questions 18 and 19, skip to Question 21****

20. Over what period of time did these episodes become longer, more frequent, or more severe?

- Days 0
- Weeks 1
- Months 2
- Unknown 3

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21. Did s/he experience shortness of breath?

- No 0 Skip to item 22
 Yes 1
 Unknown 2 Skip to item 22

21a. Did s/he have shortness of breath while at rest?

- No 0
 Yes 1
 Unknown 2

22. *“I apologize if this question sounds hard or if it makes you uncomfortable. Please be assured we respect your feelings about this unfortunate event. How long was it from (insert decedent’s name) last episode of symptoms to the time that s/he stopped breathing on his/her own?”*

- Less than 5 minutes 0
 Less than 1 hour 1
 Less than 24 hours 2
 Greater than 24 hours 3
 Unknown 4

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

“The next few questions are concerned with emergency medical care (insert decedent’s name) may have received prior to or at the time of death. You may have already given this information in an answer to an earlier question. Since it is important to obtain information specifically on emergency medical care, I hope you don’t mind if these questions seem repetitive.”

23. Was a physician, ambulance or other emergency medical team called?

- No 0 Skip to question 24
 Yes 1
 Unknown 2 Skip to question 24

23a. How long was it from the time the last episode of symptoms started to the time that medical assistance was called for?

- 5 minutes or less 0
 10 minutes or less 1
 1 hour or less 2
 6 hours or less 3
 24 hours or less 4
 More than 24 hours 5
 Unknown 6

23b. How long was it from the time medical care was called to the time when it arrived?

- 5 minutes or less 0
- 10 minutes or less 1
- 1 hour or less 2
- 6 hours or less 3
- 24 hours or less 4
- More than 24 hours 5
- Unknown 6

24. Were resuscitation measures, such as CPR attempted?

- No 0 Skip to question 25
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2 Skip to question 25

24a. Who started the CPR or resuscitation?

- Bystander 0
- Physician 1
- Ambulance personnel 2
- Fireman or Police 3
- The informant 4
- Other 5
- Unknown 6

25. Was (insert decedent's name) taken to the hospital, emergency room or any other emergency care facility?

- No 0
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2

26. Is there anyone else we could contact who might be able to provide additional information about the circumstances surrounding (insert decedent's name) death or his/her usual state of health?

- No 0 Skip to Closing Script
- Yes 1
- Unknown 2 Skip to Closing Script

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27. How is s/he related to the deceased?

- Spouse 0
- Daughter/Son 1
- Parent 2
- Friend 3
- Workmate 4
- Other relative 5 Specify: _____
- Other 6 Specify: _____

28. What is the name and address of this person?

CLOSING SCRIPT

“Thank you very much for your assistance in this study. Do you have any questions? Thanks again for your help.”

RELIABILITY

(To be completed after the interview)

29. On the basis of these questions, give your rating of reliability of the interview.

- Good 0
- Fair 1
- Poor 2