



28 **26-34-2. Definition of death -- Determination of death.**

29 (1) An individual is dead if the individual has sustained either:

30 (a) irreversible cessation of circulatory and respiratory functions; or

31 (b) irreversible cessation of all functions of the entire brain, including the brain stem.

32 (2) A determination of death shall be made in accordance with this chapter and

33 accepted medical standards.

34 Section 2. Section **26-34-4** is enacted to read:

35 **26-34-4. Determination of death made by registered nurse.**

36 (1) As used in this section:

37 (a) "Health care facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 26-21-2.

38 (b) "Physician" means a physician licensed under:

39 (i) Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act; or

40 (ii) Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act.

41 (c) "Registered nurse" means a registered nurse licensed under Title 58, Chapter 31b,

42 Nurse Practice Act.

43 (2) A registered nurse may make a determination of death of an individual if:

44 (a) an attending physician has documented in the individual's medical or clinical record

45 that the individual's death is anticipated due to illness, infirmity, or disease no earlier than 180

46 days before the date of the determination of death; and

47 (b) at the time of the documentation described in Subsection (2)(a), the physician

48 authorized the following, in writing, to make the determination of death:

49 (i) one or more specific registered nurses; or

50 (ii) if the individual is in a health care facility that has complied with Subsection (5),

51 all registered nurses that the facility employs.

52 (3) A registered nurse who has determined death under this section shall:

53 (a) document the clinical criteria for the determination in the individual's medical or

54 clinical record;

55 (b) notify the physician described in Subsection (2)(b);

56 (c) ensure that the death certificate includes:

57 (i) the name of the deceased;

58 (ii) the presence of a contagious disease, if known; and

59           (iii) the date and time of death; and

60           (d) sign the death certificate.

61           (4) Except as otherwise provided by law or rule, a physician licensed under Title 58,  
62 Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical  
63 Practice Act, shall certify a determination of death described in Subsection (3) within 24 hours  
64 after the registered nurse makes the determination of death.

65           (5) (a) For a health care facility to be eligible for a general authorization described in  
66 Subsection (2)(b), the facility shall adopt written policies and procedures that provide for the  
67 determination of death by a registered nurse under this section.

68           (b) A registered nurse that a health care facility employs may not make a determination  
69 of death under this section unless the facility has adopted the written policies and procedures  
70 described in Subsection (5)(a).

71           (6) The department may make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah  
72 Administrative Rulemaking Act, to ensure the appropriate determination of death under this  
73 section.