



## Appendix 2

**This appendix was part of the submitted manuscript and has been peer reviewed.  
It is posted as supplied by the authors.**

Appendix to: Neate SL, Bugeja LC, Jelinek GA, et al. Non-reporting of reportable deaths to the coroner: when in doubt, report. *Med J Aust* 2013; 199: 402-405. doi: 10.5694/mja13.10246.

## Appendix 2: Example: Deletion of co-morbidites from the cause of death

Figure 5 shows the cause of death assigned by the medical practitioner on the death certificate submitted to BDM as pneumonia following fractures of the cervical spine with urinary tract infection as the cause of the fractures, and with diabetes, atrial fibrillation and hypertension listed as significant conditions contributing to the death. The fractures alerted BDM to report the death to the Coroner for investigation.

PART THREE – Cause of Death		
<b>15.1</b>	<b>Description of disease, injury or condition</b>	<b>Duration between onset &amp; death</b>
<b>Disease or condition directly leading to death.</b> <b>Note:</b> Please specify the disease, injury or condition which led directly to the death not only the mode of dying such as heart or respiratory failure.	a) Pneumonia	Days
<b>Antecedent causes</b> <b>Note:</b> If the direct cause of death as described in line a) was due to, arose as a consequence of another disease, injury or condition, this should be reported in line b). Similarly, if the condition on line b) was due to another condition, report this on line c) and so forth.	b) C 5-7 fracture	1 week
	c) UTI	1 month
	d)	
<b>15.2</b>	<b>Description of disease, injury or condition</b>	<b>Duration between onset &amp; death</b>
<b>Other significant conditions</b> <b>Note:</b> Provide details of any other significant condition(s) contributing to the death but not related to the disease, injury or condition causing it.	e) Diabetes, AF, hypertension	Years

Figure 5: Replication of Victorian medical Certificate of Cause of Death completed by the medical practitioner and submitted to the Registry of BDM

Investigation revealed that the deceased had a mechanical fall one week prior to death resulting in fractures of the cervical spine. The fractures were managed non-surgically with immobilisation. Pneumonia secondary to immobilization occurred.

Based on the medical review, the Coroner completing a finding and determined the cause of death as 1(a) Pneumonia 1b) Immobilisation due to cervical spine (C5, 6, 7) fracture.

CAUSE OF DEATH	
1 (a)	Pneumonia
1 (b)	Immobilisation due to cervical spine (C5,6,7) fracture
1 (c)	
1 (d)	
2	

Figure 6: Replication of review checklist completed by the consultant physician and forensic pathologist for the Coroner