

CLASSIFICATION OF COVID-19 DEATH FOR NATIONAL COVID-19 DEATH STATISTICS MINISTRY OF HEALTH MALAYSIA

1. Introduction

The first case of COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia was recorded on 17 March 2020. At that time, the criteria used for COVID-19 deaths that were announced at the national level and being included in the National COVID-19 Death Statistics was the death of a person with laboratory confirmation (i.e. RT-PCR) of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

Effective November 1, 2020, in line with the COVID-19 Death Classification Guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 16, 2020, COVID-19 deaths in Malaysia are classified as "Death Due to COVID-19" or "Death with COVID-19" ¹

2. Purpose

Accurate classification of COVID-19 death is important to ensure that COVID-19 death statistics in Malaysia comply with WHO Guidelines as applied by other countries internationally.

The criteria for the classification of COVID-19 death have been developed and established as a result of discussions and consensuses from Infectious Diseases Medical Specialists and also Forensic Medical Specialists of the Ministry of Health Malaysia (MOH) together with the National Committee of COVID-19 Mortality Review.²

3. Criteria for the classification of "Death Due to COVID-19"

3.1 Criteria for inpatient/ hospital:

- 3.1.1 COVID-19 positive case that has been confirmed through laboratory tests (RT-PCR or similar);
- 3.1.2 Death resulting from clinically compatible disease;
- 3.1.3 No clear alternative cause of death that is not related to COVID-19 infection (examples: death due to trauma, road traffic accident, suicide, etc.);
- 3.1.4 No period of complete recovery from COVID-19 between illness and death; and
- 3.1.5 Even with pre-existing disease (e.g. cancer), it is death due to COVID-19 if the reason for the severe course is due to COVID-19 infection.

3.2 Brought in Dead (BID) case criteria:

3.2.1 If a post mortem is conducted, the classification of COVID-19 death shall be in accordance with the autopsy death report.

3.2.2 If the autopsy is not performed, the death of COVID-19 must meet the following criteria:

- a. COVID-19 positive case that has been confirmed through laboratory test (RT-PCR) with CT value; and
- b. Has an epidemiological chain (according to the Epidemiology Link criteria for COVID-19 cases).

3.2.3 Supportive radiological investigation (if any) (examples: chest x-ray, post mortem CT scan, etc.), which shows signs of COVID-19 infection can be used as a supportive modality for the specialist in charge depending on the local and current situations. However, it is not a criterion that must be met for the confirmation of "Death Due to COVID-19".

4. "Death with COVID-19"

COVID-19 related deaths that do NOT meet the criteria in paragraph 3 would be classified as "Death with COVID-19" instead of "Death Due to COVID-19". These deaths are not included in the National COVID-19 Mortality Statistics.

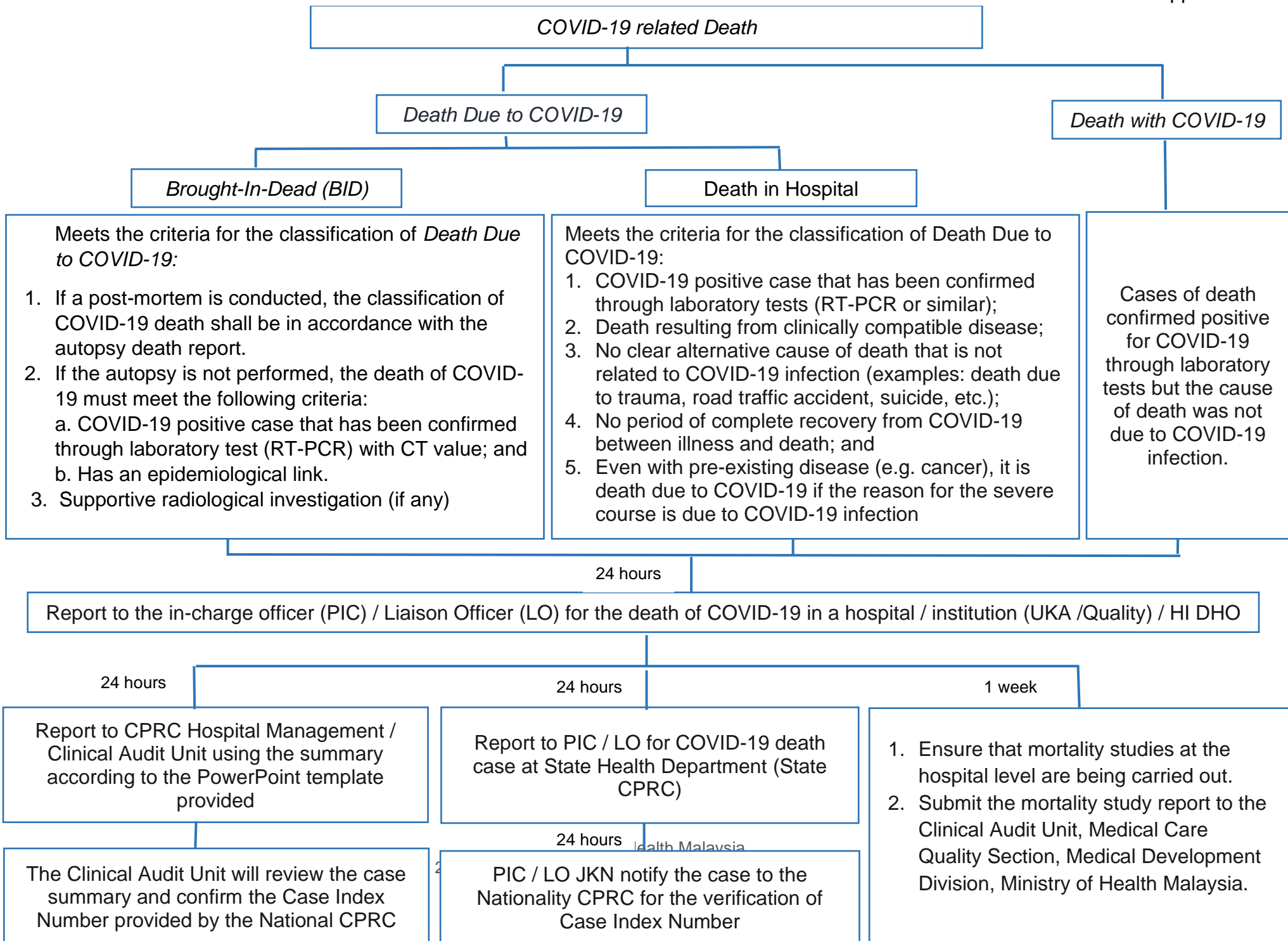
5. Management and Reporting of COVID-19 Related Death

Management of COVID-19 Related Death at Public Hospitals is shown in Appendix 1, whereas the Management of COVID-19 Related Death at The Private Healthcare Facility is as in Appendix 2.

References:

1. Guidelines for Certification and Classification (Coding) of Covid-19 as Cause of Death, World Health Organization (WHO), April 2020.
2. *Semakan Kriteria Klasifikasi Kematian Disebabkan COVID-19 (Death Due to COVID-19) Bagi Statistik Kematian COVID-19 Kebangsaan*; ruj: KKM.600-28/2/1 Jld. 3 (14), 27 November 2020.

MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 RELATED DEATH AT THE PUBLIC HEALTHCARE FACILITY



**MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 RELATED DEATH
AT THE PRIVATE HEALTHCARE FACILITY**

