Flowchart: Perinatal death reporting in Queensland

Fetal death

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**Signs of life detected at birth? (however brief)**

**No**

Stillbirth

- Birth weight ≥ 400g and birth ≥ 20 weeks
  - Consider RBDM and PDCU reporting requirements

Discuss with Coroner if:
- There is doubt about presence of signs of life

**Yes**

Neonatal Death

- All gestations and birth weight
  - Cause of death certification (Form 9) required

Discuss with Coroner if:
- Death is unexpected outcome of healthcare or
- Cause of death cannot be certified

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**In-utero death diagnosed AND**

- birth occurs at < 20 weeks
  - and/or birth weight < 400 g

- **miscarriage**
  - Not registered with RBDM
  - Not reportable to PDCU

- **miscarriage**
  - Registration *not* required with RBDM
  - Report to PDCU

**Stillbirth**

- Register with RBDM
  - Report to PDCU

**Undertake clinical review or RCA (as indicated) for stillbirths:**
- Unexpected without known major congenital anomalies and > 28 weeks
- All stillbirths after 36 weeks gestation
- Unexpected intrapartum event and > 24 weeks
- Other maternal, family or clinician concern about clinical decisions

**In-utero death diagnosed at < 20 weeks AND**

- birth occurs at ≥ 20 weeks*

**In-utero death diagnosed at ≥ 20 weeks**

- and/or birth weight ≥ 400 g

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**Signs of life:**
- Beating of the heart or
- Pulsation of the umbilical cord or
- Definite movement of voluntary muscles (chest wall)

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*Apply clinical judgment when it is not known whether intrauterine fetal death occurred before or after 20 weeks gestation. Delivery of acardiac twin or of a fetus papyraceous when the timing of intra-uterine demise is uncertain or extraction of a dead fetus at maternal autopsy are situations undefined in the legislation. In the absence of a clear legal path it is optional to notify RBDM but it is a requirement to report to PDCU.

RBDM: The funeral director will submit the Death Registration Application (Form 8) electronically after a Cause of Death Certificate (Form 9) and Perinatal Supplement (Form 9a) have been issued or a coronial autopsy has been performed. Parents experiencing a miscarriage may apply for an Early Pregnancy Loss Recognition Certificate.

PDCU: Notification is by maternity staff electronically or using Perinatal Data Collection Form (MR63D)

**Abbreviations:** ≥: greater than or equal to; <: less than; RBDM: Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages; RCA: Root cause analysis; PDCU: Perinatal Data Collection Unit