



TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

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Centre for Cancer Epidemiology
The Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death (USCOD)

NEWSLETTER



STATE-LEVEL MEDICAL CERTIFICATION OF CAUSE OF DEATH (MCCD) TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT) WORKSHOP IN PUNJAB CONDUCTED AT HOMI BHABHA CANCER HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, TATA MEMORIAL CENTER NEW CHANDIGARH.

MAHARASHTRA

Maharashtra saw comprehensive and sustained efforts to strengthen Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) through capacity building, advocacy, and large-scale system support. In July, two orientation training sessions were conducted in Mumbai: one for AYUSH private practitioners at the Central Ayurveda Research Institute in collaboration with the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) Mumbai, attended by 30 participants. Another training for consultants and resident doctors was conducted at Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Shatabdi General Hospital, Govandi, with 49 participants. In August, the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death at Tata Memorial Centre presented on the importance of MCCD, best practices, and quality certification guidelines at the National Conference on Public Health and Epidemiology organized by ACTREC, reaching 139 participants from 17 states, and showcased training resources and manuals. Capacity building continued in September and October with multiple MCCD orientation trainings for newly inducted junior residents at Tata Memorial Hospital, Parel, and ACTREC, along with a Grand Round presentation at ACTREC highlighting Nair study outcomes, USCOD activities, and proposed training impact studies. A major scale-up began in November with the launch of ward-wise MCCD training for private medical practitioners under the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), with two trainings conducted per week across Mumbai wards and continued expansion in December.



AYUSH private practitioners MCCD orientation training at Central Ayurveda Research Institute in collaboration with Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Mumbai



MCCD Training at PN Ward Training of Mumbai For All The Private Medical Practitioners of the Ward

Parallely, from July to December, intensive ICD-10 coding and data-entry support was extended to the State Bureau of Health Intelligence and Vital Statistics, Directorate of Health Services, Pune by the unit at TMC. During this period 224,000 MCCD forms for 2024 were coded, and support was provided for the timely submission of the annual report to the Registrar General of India (RGI). Similar technical support was provided by TMC to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), resulting in the coding of 94,024 backlog MCCD forms from 2024 and facilitating the timely preparation and submission of Mumbai's cause-of-death reports to the Chief Registrar. Collectively, these activities significantly strengthened MCCD practices, institutional capacity, and the quality and completeness of mortality data in Maharashtra.

MCCD Capacity Building in India for AYUSH Fraternity in collaboration with AYUSH Ministry:

The Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death, Tata Memorial Centre received an approval from the Ayush Ministry, Government of India to carry out MCCD capacity building for AYUSH doctors across the country. The AYUSH fraternity includes integrated medicine doctors from Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Unani, Siddha and Yoga. In India these registered practitioners with these degrees are eligible to certify deaths. Approximately 700,000 to 800,000 AYUSH doctors are registered in India working in private as well as government healthcare facilities and private practices. Therefore it was eminent to train them in the best practices and guidelines for medical certification of cause of death along with Modern Medicine doctors in order to strengthen cause of death in the country.

This capacity building initiative would be systematically implemented in a phase-wise manner. The unit carried out a MCCD Training of Trainers session for AYUSH medical officers from the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) across India. This training was attended by 53 doctors who will be in-charge of further training doctors of their institute in MCCD in a cascading manner.

UTTAR PRADESH

USCOD's work in Uttar Pradesh focused on sustaining quality improvement mechanisms for MCCD implementation. In recognition of sustained contributions toward strengthening death certification and CRVS systems, USCOD received an award from the Directorate of Census Operations, Uttar Pradesh, on the occasion of 'Biswa Jansankhya Diwas'. This acknowledgment reflects collaborative efforts between state authorities and USCOD to improve mortality data quality.



MCCD orientation training conducted at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta District Hospital, Varanasi.

A MCCD orientation training was conducted at Shri Shiv Prasad Gupta District Hospital, Varanasi, and also at Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital, where a total of 41 medical practitioners were trained at both hospitals combined.

PUNJAB

Punjab marked a major milestone in strengthening cause-of-death reporting with the successful conduct of the State-Level Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) organized by the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death, Tata Memorial Centre, in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations, Punjab and the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Punjab.



The one-day workshop trained 49 nominated state government doctors and medical coders to act as district-level trainers through a cascading model. The workshop was inaugurated by senior state and central officials, reflecting strong administrative commitment to improving Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) in Punjab.

As a next step, the trained medical officers will serve as designated nodal persons for MCCD in their respective districts and will conduct district-level training for doctors and relevant staff. These district trainings will be reported back to the Directorate of Census Operations (DCO), Punjab, for monitoring and review. In the next phase a MCCD training of trainers' workshop is planned for the doctors of medical colleges in Punjab. In parallel, further capacity-building activities are planned for Chandigarh, along with continued academic and technical support to ensure sustained implementation and quality improvement.

A comprehensive MCCD training at Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Jalandhar, with 75 participants, including interns, residents, nurses, and medical records staff. Refresher training for medical officers was also initiated at Tata Memorial Centre facilities in Punjab. A MCCD orientation training was conducted at Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), Phase 6, Mohali, with 10 participants. The session focused on correct completion of MCCD forms and common certification errors, contributing to ongoing efforts to improve the quality of cause-of-death reporting in Punjab.

HARYANA

A significant policy milestone was achieved in Haryana with the introduction of mandatory completion of the MCCD e-learning course on the Omnicuris platform for all government doctors prior to participation in Training of Trainers (ToT) programs. This strategic initiative was instituted to ensure a uniform baseline level of knowledge and standardization of cause-of-death certification practices across the state. Building on this foundation, an upcoming State-Level ToT on Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) is being organized in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Haryana, wherein nominated doctors from all 22 districts of the state will be trained. This ToT aims to further strengthen district-level capacity, enhance the quality of medical certification, and facilitate systematic rollout and monitoring of MCCD implementation across Haryana.

BIHAR

In Bihar, USCOD continued routine baseline and monthly quality assessments of MCCD forms at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (HBCHRC), Muzaffarpur. These assessments form part of a longitudinal monitoring strategy to evaluate the impact of MCCD training over time. The Standard Operating Procedure for MCCD, Bihar, has been submitted to the DIC office in Patna, & it has been forwarded to the higher authority for further review & action. MCCD orientation training session was also conducted for medical officers at HBCHRC Muzaffarpur.

RESEARCH

USCOD continued to generate evidence on the effectiveness of MCCD training and quality improvement interventions. Pre- and post-training conceptual and applied knowledge assessments were conducted for AYUSH practitioners trained in Mumbai, as well as for consultants and resident doctors trained at Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Shatabdi General Hospital.

The unit has submitted the draft paper for **“Implementing Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) Cascading Training Model in Maharashtra, India”**. This abstract was accepted for presentation at the CRVS Research Forum 2026.

The MCCD impact assessment study at HBCHRC, Muzaffarpur, received approval from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC), allowing systematic evaluation of post-training changes in certification quality. Outcome data from the Nair Hospital MCCD training impact study were shared with the Department of Biostatistics, Tata Memorial Centre, for advanced statistical analysis.

At Cardinal Gracias Memorial Hospital, Vasai, the baseline MCCD quality assessment report was finalized, covering January 2021 to May 2025. A total of 875 MCCD forms were reviewed, providing a comprehensive baseline for future impact evaluations.

GENDER EQUITY UNIT (GEU)

The Gender Equity Unit under USCOD made significant progress during July 2025. Institutional Ethics Committee approval was received for the study titled **‘Sex-Based Analysis of Cancer Mortality and Its Association with Education Levels among Cancer Patients at Tertiary Cancer Centers in Northern India.’** The scientific poster for this study was finalized for presentation at the 30th International Population Conference (IPC) 2025 in Brisbane. Additionally, an abstract focusing on gender and education disparities in cancer mortality was accepted for the Global Digital Health Platform 2025.

The unit has also initiated a study in the Barshi district of Maharashtra titled- Assessing cancer mortality pattern statistics by gender and the waiting time for treatment in rural villages of Barshi taluka in Maharashtra state of India.

UNESCAP – CART INITIATIVE

USCOD continued its engagement with the UNESCAP CRVS Applied Research Training (CART) Initiative, strengthening its research contributions to CRVS systems. Four USCOD team members attended the first in-person CART workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, from 25–30 August 2025. The ongoing CART studies focus on evaluating the effectiveness of MCCD training, assessing the impact of certification errors on identifying the underlying cause of death, examining the implementation of the IRIS automated coding system, and understanding key barriers and facilitators to CRVS strengthening interventions. In addition, one USCOD research proposal has been selected for CART Cohort 3, further reinforcing the unit’s role in generating evidence to support improvements in cause-of-death data quality and CRVS systems in India.

<https://tmcepi.gov.in/USCOD>

- Please visit the Unit for Strengthening Cause of Death Data website for more information on the resources provided and additional resources

<https://tmcepi.gov.in/USCOD>

Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) eLearning course-
<https://preprod.omnicuris.com/academics/medical-certification-of-cause-of-death>

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