

EEOICPA Exercise Booklet Self-Instructional Training



U.S. Department of Labor
Employment Standards Administration
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

When to Use Death Certificates as Diagnostic Evidence in Cancer Claims

Version 1
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**Do NOT start self-instruction with this booklet:
Refer to the EEOICPA Resource Booklet First**

This booklet contains resources for determining when it is appropriate to use death certificates as medical evidence. Please use the Self-Instruction Booklet to guide you in learning how to apply these resources.

Exercises: When to use death certificates to establish a medical diagnosis

Directions: For each of the following seven exercises, circle the letter of the best answer to the question that follows the summary of facts. After you have made your choice, check the answer that appears on the next page.

Note: All employment information in the following cases has been verified by EE-5s. The purpose of these exercises is to give you practice in applying the rules that govern when death certificates can be used, NOT to address employment issues.

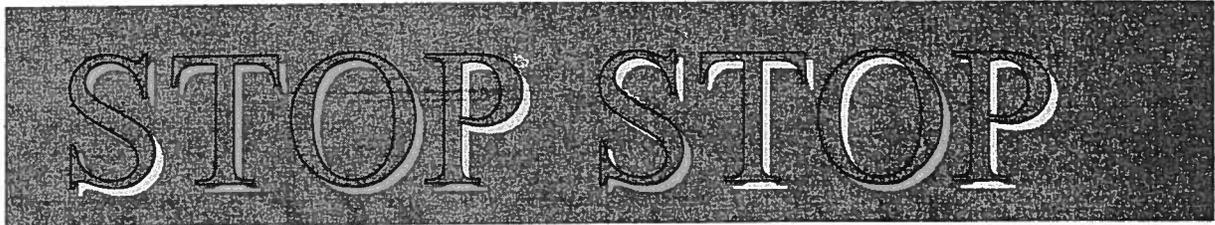
Exercise 1: Survivor Peter Hann's claim for SEC cancer, filed 09/06/2001:

Relationship	Peter's EE-2 shows him to be the son of William Hann, a former DOE employee; birth certificate provides verification
William's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dated April 19, 1980• Bone cancer shown as a cause of death• Signed by a physician in a local hospital
Father's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at Portsmouth GDP during period that uranium was being enriched; wore dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete narrative medical report with diagnosis of primary site bone cancer on June 21, 1978• Note from referring physician presenting CT scan results, and requesting biopsy
Medical evidence provided by Peter in response to development letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgery report from an orthopedic oncologist dated June 2, 1978 and showing that bone tumor material was taken from William Hann via needle biopsy.• June 4, 1978 pathology report from a physician showing that the tumor contained Chondrosarcoma cells.

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- A. Yes, because it substantiates the medical information provided by the claimant.
- B. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.
- C. Yes, because the death certificate shows bone cancer and is signed by a doctor.
- D. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.

STOP STOP



STOP STOP

Please answer Exercise 1 before checking your answer on the next page.

STOP STOP



STOP STOP

ANSWER

Exercise 1: Survivor Peter Hann's claim for SEC cancer, filed 09/06/2001:

Relationship	Peter's EE-2 shows him to be the son of William Hann, a former DOE employee; birth certificate provides verification
William's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated April 19, 1980 • Bone cancer shown as a cause of death • Signed by a physician in a local hospital
Father's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at Portsmouth GDP during period that uranium was being enriched; wore dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete narrative medical report with diagnosis of primary site bone cancer on June 21, 1978 • Note from referring physician presenting CT scan results, and requesting biopsy
Medical evidence provided by Peter in response to development letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgery report from an orthopedic oncologist dated June 2, 1978 and showing that bone tumor material was taken from William Hann via needle biopsy. • June 4, 1978 pathology report from a physician showing that the tumor contained Chondrosarcoma cells.

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

A. Yes, because it substantiates the medical information provided by the claimant.

Wrong: While it does substantiate the medical information, because that medical information does establish the diagnosis, the death certificate may NOT be used for that purpose.

B. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

This is correct because you do have a complete narrative medical report and a supporting biopsy pathology report. Note that bone cancer in SEC cases does not have a requirement for a period of onset after first exposure, so you do have sufficient medical evidence without this information.

C. Yes, because the death certificate shows bone cancer and is signed by a doctor.

Wrong: While a medical doctor must sign a death certificate, the certificate may NOT be used to establish a medical diagnosis if sufficient medical evidence already is available.

D. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.

Wrong: You do not need to collect additional medical evidence.

Exercise 2: Survivor Ellen Kawowski's claim for SEC cancer, filed 10/08/2001:

Relationship

EE-2 shows her to be the widow of former DOE employee, Jack Kawowski; marriage certificate verifies marriage

Jack's death certificate

- Dated January 10, 1976
 - Pancreatic cancer shown as a cause of death
 - Signed by a physician in a local hospital
-

Spouse's Employment

EE-3 shows he worked at Oak Ridge K-25 GDP during period that uranium was being enriched; wore dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information

Medical evidence at initial submission

- Complete narrative medical report with diagnosis of primary site pancreatic cancer on July 5, 1975, more than 10 years after Jack began working at K-25.
 - Tissue pathology report, dated July 3, 1975, showing malignant neoplasm in biopsy from pancreas
-

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- A. Yes, because with it you have all evidence needed to issue a recommended decision.
- B. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
- C. Yes, because the death certificate shows pancreatic cancer and is signed by a doctor.
- D. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

ANSWER

Exercise 2: Survivor Ellen Kawowski's claim for SEC cancer, filed 10/08/2001:

Relationship	EE-2 shows her to be the widow of former DOE employee, Jack Kawowski; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Jack's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated January 10, 1976 • Pancreatic cancer shown as a cause of death • Signed by a physician in a local hospital
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at Oak Ridge K-25 GDP during period that uranium was being enriched; wore dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete narrative medical report with diagnosis of primary site pancreatic cancer on July 5, 1975, more than 10 years after Jack began working at K-25. • Tissue pathology report, dated July 3, 1975, showing malignant neoplasm in biopsy from pancreas

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- A. Yes, because with it you have all evidence needed to issue a recommended decision.
Wrong: Whether or not you have all evidence to issue a recommended decision, you can only use a death certificate if all reasonable attempts have failed to surface other medical evidence sufficient for making a diagnosis.
- B. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
Wrong: You do not need to collect additional medical evidence.
- C. Yes, because the death certificate shows pancreatic cancer and is signed by a doctor.
Wrong: While a medical doctor must sign a death certificate, the certificate may NOT be used to establish a medical diagnosis if sufficient medical evidence already is available.
- D** No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.
This is correct because you do have a complete narrative medical report and a supporting biopsy pathology report.

Exercise 3: Survivor Mary LaBelle's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 11/19/2001:

Relationship	Mary's EE-2 shows her to be the widow of Steve Juntoon, a former DOE employee; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Steve's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated March 27, 1972 • Kidney failure due to renal cancer was cause of death • Signed by a physician in a local hospital
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Berkeley, CA, and conducted research on fusion products, which required that he be constantly monitored by dosimetry; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted
Medical evidence provided by Mary in response to development letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note from Mary on personal stationery stating that Steve's physician died in the mid-1980's, and that the successor practice no longer maintained records prior to 1982 • A Christmas card from Steve's physician, dated December 22, 1971, offering personal wishes for remission of her husband's renal cancer.
Medical evidence supplied by local hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral note from Steve's physician, relating Steve's physical findings and medical history, and describing patient's symptoms, including blood in the urine and fatigue. Referral asked the hospital's oncology department to evaluate Steve for possible kidney cancer. The note was dated seven years after Steve began working at Lawrence Radiation Lab. • Surgery report, dated three weeks after the referral note, describing biopsy of right kidney. • Pathology report from biopsy diagnosing renal cell cancer, signed by an MD

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- Yes, because there is no mention of physical findings, course of treatment, etc.
- No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
- Yes, because the death certificate shows renal cancer and is signed by a doctor.
- No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

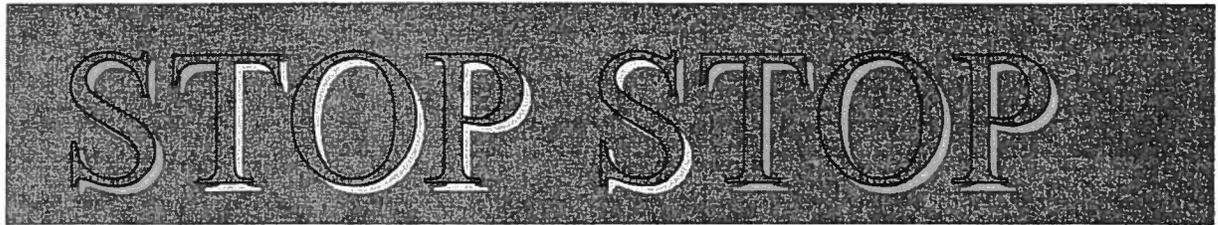
Exercise 4: Survivor Linda Preston's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 12/13/2001:

Relationship	Linda's EE-2 shows her to be the daughter of Paul Preston, a former DOE worker; birth certificate verifies relationship
Paul's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated August 2, 1969 • "Liver cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Campbell Stuckley, licensed mortuary scientist
Father's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked for six years at the Elk River Reactor in Minnesota; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but Linda stated that her father's liver cancer made him very sick, and that his doctor died soon after her father died.
Evidence provided by Linda in response to development letter	Linda could provide no additional medical evidence, but she provided the names of her father's primary care physician and the hospital where he was treated
Responses from queries to Paul's physician and hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate records from the practice that took over Paul's physician's practice were unsuccessful • The hospital where Paul was treated had no records of his treatment • Further queries to the hospital billing department revealed that it had lost its archival records for dates prior to 1975, and that it had been unable to recover them

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- Yes, because the preponderance of evidence is suggestive, but insufficient.
- No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
- Yes, because the death certificate shows liver cancer and is signed by a scientist.
- No, because the requirements for using a death certificate have not been met.

STOP STOP



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Please answer Exercise 4 before checking your answer on the next page.

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ANSWER

Exercise 4: Survivor Linda Preston's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 12/13/2001:

Relationship	Linda's EE-2 shows her to be the daughter of Paul Preston, a former DOE worker; birth certificate verifies relationship
Paul's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated August 2, 1969 • "Liver cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Campbell Stuckley, licensed mortuary scientist
Father's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked for six years at the Elk River Reactor in Minnesota; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but Linda stated that her father's liver cancer made him very sick, and that his doctor died soon after her father died.
Evidence provided by Linda in response to development letter	Linda could provide no additional medical evidence, but she provided the names of her father's primary care physician and the hospital where he was treated
Responses from queries to Paul's physician and hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate records from the practice that took over Paul's physician's practice were unsuccessful • The hospital where Paul was treated had no records of his treatment • Further queries to the hospital billing department revealed that it had lost its archival records for dates prior to 1975, and that it had been unable to recover them

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- A. Yes, because the preponderance of evidence is suggestive, but insufficient.
Wrong: The lack of evidence might permit use of a death certificate, but the certificate cannot be used because a MD did NOT sign it.
- B. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
Wrong: You appear to have exhausted reasonable attempts to gather medical evidence.
- C. Yes, because the death certificate shows liver cancer and is signed by a scientist.
Wrong: The death certificate cannot be used because it is NOT signed by a medical doctor.
- D. No, because the requirements for using a death certificate have not been met.
This is correct because the death certificate is signed by a licensed mortuary scientist (a mortician), NOT a medical doctor.

Exercise 5: Survivor Ralph Ortega's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 9/13/2001:

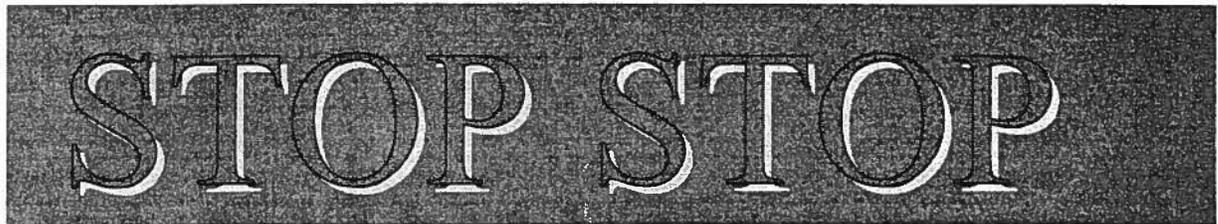
Relationship	Ralph's EE-2 shows him to be the widower of Estelle Ortega, a former DOE worker; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Estelle's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated February 12, 1962 • "Complications due to breast cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Estelle's personal physician, Joe Feldtstone
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows she worked for eight years at the Huntington Pilot Plant in West Virginia, processing scrap nickel to produce nickel powder for the Paducah GDP; EE-5 verifies information. The scrap metal was later found to be contaminated with uranium.
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but her husband attached a note stating that Estelle was a young woman when she got the cancer, and that it was quick moving.
Evidence provided by Ralph in response to development letter	Ralph could provide no additional medical evidence, but he was able to track down the address of Joe Feldtstone, Estelle's long retired physician.
Responses from Estelle's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Feldtstone's response to written query: "I remember Estelle. Hers was a sad case. She had a fast-moving cancer, and refused surgery. I treated her at her home as best I could. Since she wouldn't go to the hospital, there wasn't much I could do except ease her pain." • Hospitals within a 50-mile radius had no relevant records, nor did the Ortega's health and life insurance companies • A follow-up phone call to Dr. Feldtstone yielded no additional information. He could not recall the kind of cancer Estelle had. He said "that was a long, long time ago, and my memory fails me. I don't even know how I knew what I wrote you."

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- Yes, because you cannot rely on Dr. Feldtstone's memory, given his testimony.
- No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
- Yes, because the death certificate shows breast cancer and is signed by a doctor.

D. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

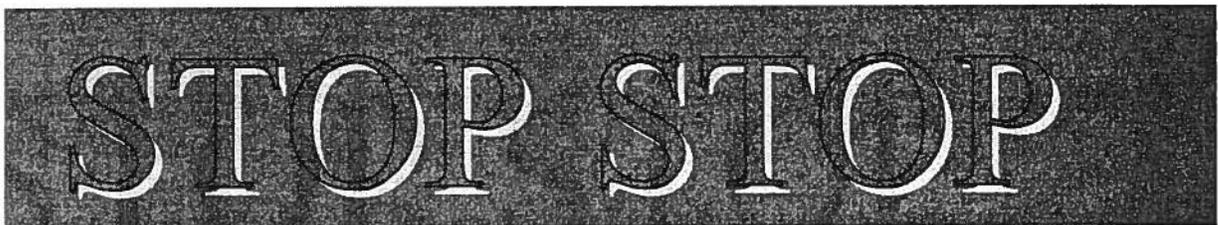
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Please answer Exercise 5 before checking your answer on the next page.

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ANSWER

Exercise 4: Survivor Linda Preston's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 12/13/2001:

Relationship	Linda's EE-2 shows her to be the daughter of Paul Preston, a former DOE worker; birth certificate verifies relationship
Paul's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated August 2, 1969 • "Liver cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Campbell Stuckley, licensed mortuary scientist
Father's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked for six years at the Elk River Reactor in Minnesota; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but Linda stated that her father's liver cancer made him very sick, and that his doctor died soon after her father died.
Evidence provided by Linda in response to development letter	Linda could provide no additional medical evidence, but she provided the names of her father's primary care physician and the hospital where he was treated
Responses from queries to Paul's physician and hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate records from the practice that took over Paul's physician's practice were unsuccessful • The hospital where Paul was treated had no records of his treatment • Further queries to the hospital billing department revealed that it had lost its archival records for dates prior to 1975, and that it had been unable to recover them

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- A. Yes, because the preponderance of evidence is suggestive, but insufficient.
Wrong: The lack of evidence might permit use of a death certificate, but the certificate cannot be used because a MD did NOT sign it.
- B. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
Wrong: You appear to have exhausted reasonable attempts to gather medical evidence.
- C. Yes, because the death certificate shows liver cancer and is signed by a scientist.
Wrong: The death certificate cannot be used because it is NOT signed by a medical doctor.
- D** No, because the requirements for using a death certificate have not been met.
This is correct because the death certificate is signed by a licensed mortuary scientist (a mortician), NOT a medical doctor.

Exercise 5: Survivor Ralph Ortega's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 9/13/2001:

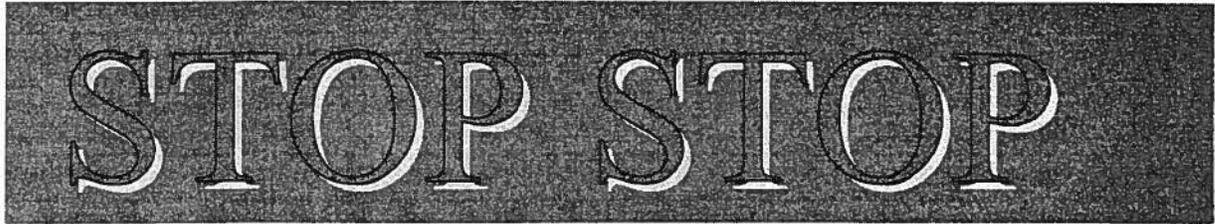
Relationship	Ralph's EE-2 shows him to be the widower of Estelle Ortega, a former DOE worker; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Estelle's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated February 12, 1962 • "Complications due to breast cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Estelle's personal physician, Joe Feldtstone
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows she worked for eight years at the Huntington Pilot Plant in West Virginia, processing scrap nickel to produce nickel powder for the Paducah GDP; EE-5 verifies information. The scrap metal was later found to be contaminated with uranium.
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but her husband attached a note stating that Estelle was a young woman when she got the cancer, and that it was quick moving.
Evidence provided by Ralph in response to development letter	Ralph could provide no additional medical evidence, but he was able to track down the address of Joe Feldtstone, Estelle's long retired physician.
Responses from Estelle's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Feldtstone's response to written query: "I remember Estelle. Hers was a sad case. She had a fast-moving cancer, and refused surgery. I treated her at her home as best I could. Since she wouldn't go to the hospital, there wasn't much I could do except ease her pain." • Hospitals within a 50-mile radius had no relevant records, nor did the Ortega's health and life insurance companies • A follow-up phone call to Dr. Feldtstone yielded no additional information. He could not recall the kind of cancer Estelle had. He said "that was a long, long time ago, and my memory fails me. I don't even know how I knew what I wrote you."

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

- Yes, because you cannot rely on Dr. Feldstone's memory, given his testimony.
- No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.
- Yes, because the death certificate shows breast cancer and is signed by a doctor.

D. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

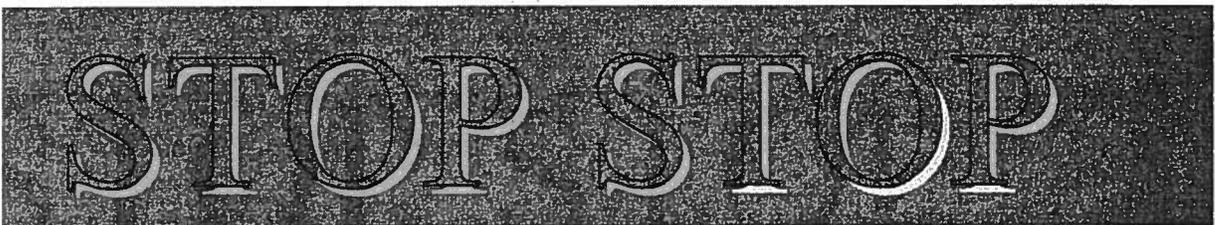
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Please answer Exercise 5 before checking your answer on the next page.

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STOP STOP

ANSWER**Exercise 5:** Survivor Ralph Ortega's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 9/13/2001:

Relationship	Ralph's EE-2 shows him to be the widower of Estelle Ortega, a former DOE worker; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Estelle's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated February 12, 1962 • "Complications due to breast cancer" was the stated cause • Signed by Estelle's personal physician, Joe Feldtstone
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows she worked for eight years at the Huntington Pilot Plant in West Virginia, processing scrap nickel to produce nickel powder for the Paducah GDP; EE-5 verifies information. The scrap metal was later found to be contaminated with uranium.
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but her husband attached a note stating that Estelle was a young woman when she got the cancer, and that it was quick moving.
Evidence provided by Ralph in response to development letter	Ralph could provide no additional medical evidence, but he was able to track down the address of Joe Feldtstone, Estelle's long retired physician.
Responses from Estelle's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Feldtstone's response to written query: "I remember Estelle. Hers was a sad case. She had a fast-moving cancer, and refused surgery. I treated her at her home as best I could. Since she wouldn't go to the hospital, there wasn't much I could do except ease her pain." • Hospitals within a 50-mile radius had no relevant records, nor did the Ortega's health and life insurance companies • A follow-up phone call to Dr. Feldtstone yielded no additional information. He could not recall the kind of cancer Estelle had. He said "that was a long, long time ago, and my memory fails me. I don't even know how I knew what I wrote you."

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis in this claim?

A. Yes, because you cannot rely on Dr. Feldstone's memory, given his testimony.

Wrong: You do NOT need to rely on Dr. Feldstone's memory because he signed the death certificate at the time of death.

B. No, because you may not have yet exhausted attempts to collect medical evidence.

Wrong: You appear to have made all reasonable attempts to gather medical evidence.

C. Yes, because the death certificate shows breast cancer and is signed by a doctor.

This is correct because reasonable attempts to gather medical evidence have failed, and the death certificate, which is signed by a medical doctor, shows a form of cancer

D. No, because you have sufficient medical evidence without using the death certificate.

Wrong: You do NOT have sufficient medical evidence since you are lacking a medical report and a supporting pathology report.

Exercise 6: Survivor Beth Miter's claim for SEC cancer, filed 01/11/2002:

Relationship	Beth's EE-2 shows her to be the widow of John Miter, a former DOE employee; marriage certificate verifies marriage
John's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated January 22, 1963 • Cause of death shown as "pulmonary heart failure due to general edema caused by stomach cancer" • Signed by Bill Wellington, MD
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at the Paduchah GDP in Kentucky from 1953 to 1962 in a job requiring daily monitoring of his dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted. Beth stated that the movers lost all her records when she moved to her new home in 1972.
Evidence provided by Beth in response to development letter	Beth wrote: "His doctor was Bill Wellington, but he died years ago. We never did take John to the hospital because he said he didn't want people cutting on him. He died at home. Bill examined him there before we sent for the funeral home."
Responses from queries to John's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate the primary care physician failed • No hospitals in a 50-mile radius had records on the case • Bill's insurance company did not retain medical records • The local medical board's records showed that Bill Wellington's practice was abandoned in 1967
Affidavits received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth sent an EE-4 stating: "We first learned of John's cancer in 1959 or 1960. But he was feeling poorly for a couple of years before that" • No other affidavits were returned

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis; if so, what is date of diagnosis?

- Yes, and the date of diagnosis is January 22 1963.
- No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be January 22 1963.
- Yes, and the date of diagnosis is 1960.
- No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be 1960.

STOP STOP



STOP STOP

Please answer Exercise 6 before checking your answer on the next page.

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ANSWER**Exercise 6:** Survivor Beth Miter's claim for SEC cancer, filed 01/11/2002:

Relationship	Beth's EE-2 shows her to be the widow of John Miter, a former DOE employee; marriage certificate verifies marriage
John's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated January 22, 1963 • Cause of death shown as "pulmonary heart failure due to general edema caused by stomach cancer" • Signed by Bill Wellington, MD
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at the Paduchah GDP in Kentucky from 1953 to 1962 in a job requiring daily monitoring of his dosimetry badge; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted. Beth stated that the movers lost all her records when she moved to her new home in 1972.
Evidence provided by Beth in response to development letter	Beth wrote: "His doctor was Bill Wellington, but he died years ago. We never did take John to the hospital because he said he didn't want people cutting on him. He died at home. Bill examined him there before we sent for the funeral home."
Responses from queries to John's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate the primary care physician failed • No hospitals in a 50-mile radius had records on the case • Bill's insurance company did not retain medical records • The local medical board's records showed that Bill Wellington's practice was abandoned in 1967
Affidavits received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beth sent an EE-4 stating: "We first learned of John's cancer in 1959 or 1960. But he was feeling poorly for a couple of years before that" • No other affidavits were returned

Can you use the death certificate to establish a diagnosis; if so, what is diagnosis date?

- A.** Yes, and the date of diagnosis is January 22 1963.
Correct: You can use the death certificate because all reasonable efforts to obtain sufficient medical evidence have failed, and the death certificate is signed by a medical doctor. You cannot use the date of diagnosis on his wife's affidavit because it is NOT reliable—it does not even specify the year of diagnosis. So, you must use the date on the death certificate as date of diagnosis.
- B.** No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be January 22 1963.
Wrong: You can use the death certificate. The date shown is correct.
- C.** Yes, and the date of diagnosis is 1960.
Wrong: While you can use the death certificate for diagnosis, you must also use it for date of diagnosis. The widow's affidavit may NOT be used for the date because it is not specific enough.
- D.** No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be 1960.
Wrong on both counts.

Exercise 7: Survivor Rose Abbott's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 01/04/2002:

Relationship	Rose's EE-2 shows her to be the widow of Tom Abbott, a former DOE worker; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Tom's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated April 4, 1961 • Cause shown as leukemia • Signed by Brian Brown, MD
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio from 1952 to 1956; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but Rose stated that her husband's leukemia began in 1957
Evidence provided by Rose in response to development letter	Rose could provide no additional medical evidence, but she provided the name of her husband's primary care physician, and the name of her husband's sister who helped care for him
Responses from queries to Tom's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate the primary care physician failed • Harriet, Tom's sister said she thought Tom had spent a few days in a local hospital, but she wasn't sure. • No hospitals in a 50-mile radius had records on the case
Affidavits received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose sent an EE-4 stating that Tom first learned of his leukemia on June 19, 1958, and that she remembered because that was his birthday. Rose even remembered Tom's words: "The doctor gave me a hell of a present today!" • Harriet sent an EE-4 stating that she learned about Tom's leukemia in June 1958, and that his condition was so bad that she had to start helping care for him early in 1960

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis; if so, what is date of diagnosis?

- Yes, and the date of diagnosis is April 4, 1961.
- No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be April 4, 1961.
- Yes, and the date of diagnosis is June 19, 1958.
- No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be June 19, 1958.

STOP STOP



STOP STOP

Please answer Exercise 7 before checking your answer on the next page.

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ANSWER

Exercise 7: Survivor Rose Abbott's claim for non-SEC cancer, filed 01/04/2002:

Relationship	Rose's EE-2 shows her to be the widow of Tom Abbott, a former DOE worker; marriage certificate verifies marriage
Tom's death certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dated April 4, 1961 • Cause shown as leukemia • Signed by Brian Brown, MD
Spouse's Employment	EE-3 shows he worked at the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio from 1952 to 1956; EE-5 verifies information
Medical evidence at initial submission	No medical report was submitted, but Rose stated that her husband's leukemia began in 1957
Evidence provided by Rose in response to development letter	Rose could provide no additional medical evidence, but she provided the name of her husband's primary care physician, and the name of her husband's sister who helped care for him
Responses from queries to Tom's physician and local hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All efforts to locate the primary care physician failed • Harriet, Tom's sister said she thought Tom had spent a few days in a local hospital, but she wasn't sure. • No hospitals in a 50-mile radius had records on the case
Affidavits received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rose sent an EE-4 stating that Tom first learned of his leukemia on June 19, 1958, and that she remembered because that was his birthday. Rose even remembered Tom's words: "The doctor gave me a hell of a present today!" • Harriet sent an EE-4 stating that she learned about Tom's leukemia in June 1958, and that his condition was so bad that she had to start helping care for him early in 1960

Can you use the death certificate to establish a medical diagnosis; if so, what is date of diagnosis?

A. Yes, and the date of diagnosis is April 4, 1961.

Wrong: Although you can use the death certificate, you can use an earlier diagnosis date than that shown on the death certificate.

B. No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be April 4, 1961.

Wrong on both counts.

C. Yes, and the date of diagnosis is June 19, 1958.

Correct: You can use the death certificate because all reasonable efforts to obtain sufficient medical evidence have failed, and the death certificate is signed by a medical doctor. You can use the date of diagnosis on his wife's affidavit because it is based on a compelling recollection and is supported, at least to year, by the sister's affidavit.

D. No, but, if you could, the date of diagnosis would be June 19, 1958.

Wrong: You can use the death certificate. The date of diagnosis shown is correct.

END OF SELF-INSTRUCTION