
Dear Hospital or Clinic System Chief Executive Officer,

This letter is to introduce you to the Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) and let you know that the committee may be requesting health records from your hospital or clinic to accomplish its goals and objectives. Under the Public Health Act, NMSA 24-1-3(C), the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has the authority to investigate sources of mortality. The New Mexico Administrative Code, 7.4.5, created a MMRC which is tasked with conducting reviews of cases of maternal mortality that have occurred in New Mexico. The cases to be reviewed are identified by Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) and the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (BVRHS).

To conduct these reviews, we may be contacting your medical records department to send us records associated with cases we have identified. Under the Public Health Act, NMSA 24-1-3(Y), NMDOH is authorized to request and inspect medical and clinical records pertaining to individuals whose deaths are the subject of NMDOH's mortality review. Data from the records provided will be used to create a de-identified case summary that will be presented to the larger MMRC made up of a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. All facility identification will be protected and de-identified.

Members of the MMRC will use the de-identified case summaries to make recommendations for policy or systems level improvements that will address the factors impacting the health and care of pregnant and postpartum women in New Mexico. All records obtained through this process are confidential by law and are protected from disclosure to any parties not associated with the MMRC.

If you have any questions pertaining to this notification or to the MMRC process, please contact Catherine (Katie) Avery, NMDOH MMRC Coordinator at catherine.avery@state.nm.us or 505-476-8866.

Thank you for supporting the work of the MMRC in the state of New Mexico.

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