Instructions: The informant interview form is completed for each informant for an eligible death as determined by the HCHS/SOL event investigation protocol.

Decedent’s name: __________________________ Informant name: __________________________

Date of death: ____________

Age at death: __________

Date of birth: ____________

Place of death: __________________________

“Hello, my name is (interviewer’s name) with the HCHS/SOL study. I’m calling (name of informant) regarding (name of decedent) involvement with the HCHS/SOL study, a medical study in which (name of decedent) was enrolled.

[Once it is established you are speaking with the informant, continue with the script below. If the informant is not available determine a time to call back. If the interviewer determines that the person they are speaking with is knowledgeable of the circumstances surrounding the decedent’s death, the interview with this person should continue. See procedure manual for more details.]

“I want to express our condolences for your loss. We understand that you have been identified as someone who can help us complete our documents for (decedent name). I need to ask you a few questions about the circumstances surrounding (name)’s death. Would now be a good time to talk?”

No → When would be convenient to call back? __________________________

Yes → Thank you. If you have any questions, please ask me.
1. Before we get started could you please tell me what was your relationship with the (insert name of decedent)? (Respondent was deceased’s…)
   - Spouse 1
   - Daughter/Son 2
   - Parent 3
   - Friend 4
   - Workmate 5
   - Other relative 6
   - Other 7
   Specify relationship of other: __________________________________________

A. CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DEATH
   “Now, I would like to ask you about the circumstances surrounding (insert decedent’s name) medical history.”

2. Please tell me about his/her general health, health on the day s/he died, and about the death itself.

   Record a brief synopsis of the events surrounding the death as related by the informant:

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

   “Some of the remaining questions may repeat information you already provided, but it helps us to ask these items specifically.”

3. Where was (insert decedent’s name) when s/he died? (Mark only one response.)
   - Home 0
   - Work 1
   - Public building 2
   - Bus or public transportation 3
   - In a car 4
   - Nursing home 5
   - In an emergency room 6
   - In an ambulance 7
   - In a hospital 8
   - Unknown 9
   - Other 10 Specify: ________________

4. Was anyone present when s/he died?
   - No 0
   - Yes 1 [skip to question 7]
   - Unknown 9

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5. Was anyone close enough to hear (insert decedent’s name) if s/he had called out?
   No 0 □
   Yes 1 □
   Unknown 9 □

6. How long was it between the time (insert decedent’s name) was last known to be alive and the time s/he was found dead?
   Less than 5 minutes 1 □
   5 minutes to 1 hour 2 □
   1 to 24 hours 3 □
   Longer than 24 hours 4 □
   Unknown 9 □

   *(All responses above Skip to question 8)*

7. Please tell me who was present. (Mark all that apply.)
   Self No 0 □ Yes 1 □ *Skip to question 9*
   Health care person(s) No 0 □ Yes 1 □
   Other person(s) No 0 □ Yes 1 □

8. When was the last time you saw (insert decedent’s name) prior to his/her death?
   Less than 5 minutes 1 □
   5 minutes to 1 hour 2 □
   1 to 24 hours 3 □
   Longer than 24 hours 4 □
   Unknown 9 □

B. MEDICAL HISTORY

“The next few questions concern (insert decedent’s name) medical history.”

9. Was s/he restricted to home, able to leave home only with assistance or great effort, or was his/her activity unrestricted?
   Restricted to home 1 □
   Able to leave home only with assistance or great effort 2 □
   Unrestricted 3 □

10. Was s/he hospitalized within the four weeks prior to death?
    No 0 □ *Skip to question 14*
    Yes 1 □
    Unknown 9 □ *Skip to question 14*
11. What was the reason for the hospitalization? (Select all that apply.)

a. Unknown  No 0  Yes 1  

b. Heart attack or heart disease  No 0  Yes 1  

c. Stroke  No 0  Yes 1  

d. Heart surgery  No 0  Yes 1  

e. Surgical procedure (other than heart)  No 0  Yes 1  

f. Emphysema, chronic bronchitis, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)  No 0  Yes 1  

g. Pneumonia  No 0  Yes 1  

h. Infection  No 0  Yes 1  

i. Other condition  No 0  Yes 1  

j. If other, specify: __________________________

12. What was the date of the hospitalization? 

__ / __ / __  

13. What was the name and location of the hospital? 

14. Was (insert decedent’s name) seen by a doctor any other time in the last four weeks prior to death? 

No 0  Skip to question 16  

Yes 1  

Unknown 9  Skip to question 16  

15. What was the name and address of this doctor? 

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

C. SYMPTOMS 
“The next set of questions deals specifically with acute symptoms such as pain, discomfort that (insert decedent’s name) may have experienced at the time of his/her death.”

16. Did s/he experience pain, discomfort or tightness in the chest, left arm or jaw? 

No 0  Skip to question 23  

Yes 1  

Unknown 9  Skip to question 23  

17. Did the pain, discomfort or tightness specifically involve the chest? 

No 0  

Yes 1  

Unknown 9  

17a. Did (insert decedent’s name) ever take nitroglycerin for this pain?
18. Were these episodes new or had they occurred previously?

New symptoms 1 □ **Skip to question 23**
Previous symptoms 2 □
Unknown 9 □

19. Were the episodes getting longer or more frequent?

No 0 □
Yes 1 □
Unknown 9 □**

20. Were the episodes getting more severe?

No 0 □
Yes 1 □
Unknown 9 □**

**If No or Unknown to Questions 19 and 20, skip to Question 22**

21. Over what period of time did these episodes become longer, more frequent, or more severe?

Days 1 □
Weeks 2 □
Months 3 □
Unknown 9 □

22. Did s/he experience shortness of breath?

No 0 □ **Skip to item 23**
Yes 1 □
Unknown 9 □ **Skip to item 23**

22a. Did s/he have shortness of breath while at rest?

No 0 □
Yes 1 □
Unknown 9 □

“I apologize if this question sounds hard or if it makes you uncomfortable. Please be assured we respect your feelings about this unfortunate event.”
23. How long was it from (insert decedent’s name) last episode of symptoms to the time that s/he stopped breathing on his/her own?

- Less than 5 minutes 1
- Less than 1 hour 2
- Less than 24 hours 3
- Greater than 24 hours 4
- Unknown 9

D. EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

“The next few questions are concerned with emergency medical care (insert decedent’s name) may have received prior to or at the time of death. You may have already given this information in an answer to an earlier question. Since it is important to obtain information specifically on emergency medical care, I hope you don’t mind if these questions seem repetitive.”

24. Was a physician, ambulance or other emergency medical team called?

No 0   Skip to question 25
Yes 1   Skip to question 25
Unknown 9

24a. How long was it from the time the last episode of symptoms started to the time that medical assistance was called for?

- 5 minutes or less 1
- 10 minutes or less 2
- 1 hour or less 3
- 6 hours or less 4
- 24 hours or less 5
- More than 24 hours 6
- Unknown 9

24b. How long was if from the time medical care was called to the time when it arrived?

- 5 minutes or less 1
- 10 minutes or less 2
- 1 hour or less 3
- 6 hours or less 4
- 24 hours or less 5
- More than 24 hours 6
- Unknown 9

25. Were resuscitation measures, such as CPR attempted?

No 0
Yes 1
Unknown 9
26. Was (insert decedent’s name) taken to the hospital, emergency room or any other emergency car facility?

No 0  
Yes 1  
Unknown 9

E. ADDITIONAL INFORMANTS

27. Is there anyone else we could contact who might be able to provide additional information about the circumstances surrounding (insert decedent’s name) death or his/her usual state of health?

No 0  Skip to Closing Script  
Yes 1  
Unknown 9  Skip to Closing Script

28. How is s/he related to (insert decedent’s name)?

Spouse 1  
Daughter/Son 2  
Parent 3  
Friend 4  
Workmate 5  
Other relative 6  
Other 7  
Specify relationship of other: ________________________________

29. What is the name and address of this person?

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

F. CLOSING SCRIPT

“Thank you very much for your assistance in this study. Do you have any questions? Thanks again for your help.”

G. RELIABILITY (To be completed after the interview)

30. On the basis of these questions, give your rating of reliability of the interview.

Poor 1  
Fair 2  
Good 3  