Guidance on Changes to NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s:

Medical Examiner Certificate of Death (VR16)

The below guidance pertains to changes to New York City Vital Record forms that will be in effect January 2, 2020. Question numbers correspond to the box numbers on the certificates. Before and after images are included to show the changes that were made.

1. **Question 1:** Suffix added to Name of Decedent
   a. **Original:** (First, Middle, Last)
   b. **New:** (First, Middle, Last, Suffix)
   c. **Purpose:** To match the birth certificate (VR6S)

**Current Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

![Current Death certificate (Medical Examiner)](image1)

**Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

![Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)](image2)

**Current eVital screen, no changes made to eVital**

![Current eVital screen, no changes made to eVital](image3)
2. **Question 4**: Adding option of X for decedent sex to capture gender identity

   a. **Original**: Male, Female, Unknown, Undetermined
   b. **New**: Male, Female, Unknown, Undetermined and X
   c. **Purpose**: To provide option of a gender marker for persons who do not identify exclusively as female or male

**Current Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

![Current Death Certificate](image1)

**Current eVital screen**

![Current eVital Screen](image2)

**Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

![Updated Death Certificate](image3)
3. **Question 21**: Remove “if wife” from surviving spouse’s name

a. **Original**: Surviving Spouse’s/Partner’s Name (if wife, name prior to first marriage) (First, Middle, Last)

b. **New**: Surviving Spouse’s/Partner’s Name (prior to first marriage) (First, Middle, Last)

c. **Purpose**: To make language gender neutral

**Current Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

**Current eVital screen**

**Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**
New eVital screen

Surviving Spouse/Partner Name

- Is Spouse/Partner Informant?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last (Name Prior to First Marriage)</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
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<td></td>
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4. **Question 22 and 23**: Add ‘Parent’ to labeling

   a. **Original**: Father’s Name (First, Middle, Last); Mother’s Maiden Name (Prior to first marriage) (First, Middle, Last)
   b. **New**: Father/Parent Name (Prior to first marriage) (First, Middle, Last); Mother/Parent Name (Prior to first marriage) (First, Middle, Last)
   c. **Purpose**: To make language gender neutral

**Current Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**

**Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)**
Current eVital screen, no changes made to eVital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father/Parent Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Is Father/Parent Informant ?</td>
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<tr>
<td>First*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last*</td>
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<td>□ Select one</td>
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Mother/Parent Name (Prior to First Marriage)

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<tr>
<th>□ Is Mother/Parent Informant ?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First*</td>
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<td>Suffix</td>
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<td>□ Select one</td>
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5. **Question 27**: Adding Latino to ancestry label

   a. **Original**: Hispanic
   
   b. **New**: Hispanic/Latino
   
   c. **Purpose**: To be more inclusive and match the US Standard Death Certificate

Current Death Certificate (Medical Examiner)

[Image of death certificate with circled text indicating Hispanic/Latino]
Current eVital screen

Updated Death certificate (Medical Examiner)

New eVital screen