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# Improving cause of death data : Thailand Experiences on verbal autopsy for community deaths.

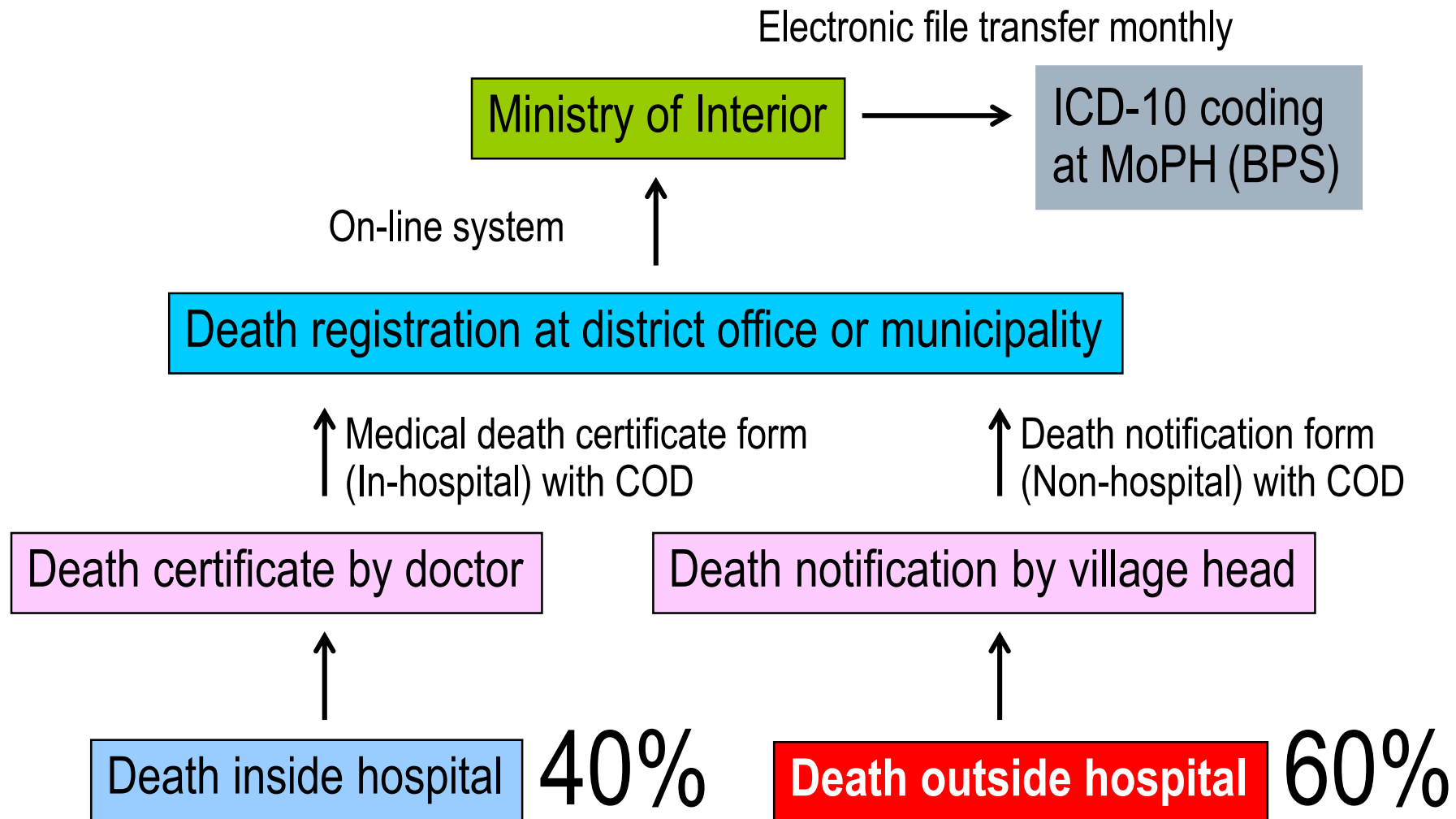
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**Ministry of Public Health, Thailand**

# Flow of vital event registration



# Death counts and Cause of Death (COD)

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- Death data processed
    - Total death ~400,000 / year
    - Code cause of death with ICD 10
    - Compile and Analyzed
    - Annual reports in print and web format
    - Provide provinces population, birth, death information every month
    - Decrease ill defined COD (R0-R99) from 45% to 37%
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# Problems of Causes of death data

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- **High % of ill-defined causes of death**
    - Non-hospital death (relatives provide general symptoms or senility as the causes of death)
    - In-hospital death (doctors use mode of death instead of the causes)
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# Problems of Causes of death data

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## □ Misclassification of causes of death

- In-hospital death (doctors select and write the wrong COD)
  - Non-hospital death (relatives bias the causes of death to avoid stigma such as HIV)
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# MOPH's COD improvement project using Verbal Autopsy (VA)

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- ❑ Started in 2007. Using customized WHO VA tool
  - ❑ Train health professionals at the sub-district level
  - ❑ Train MOI registrars at district office to conduct VA interview.
  - ❑ Preliminary results: Ill-defined COD (ICD 10 code R00-R99) decrease from 41%(2007) to 27%(2008) and 25%(2009)
  - ❑ implement to all 76 provinces in 2015.
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# Improving in-hospital COD data

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- **Training for medical doctors** to define actual COD in medical death certificate
    - Reduce mode of death, un-specified causes, injury code
    - Reduce misclassification, wrong selection
  
  - **Medical records and coding audit** for better quality of diagnosis of diseases and causes of death
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# Improving non-hospital COD

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- Using electronic in-patient records (administrative data – reimbursement data) for defining outside hospital COD
  - Match death outside hospital with recent hospitalization using citizen identifier number (13 digit number)
  - Using local health personnel to provide COD (accompanied with VA tool and medical history)
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