

**Forensic Science:**  
**Students must read and complete questions on a separate sheet.**

**QUICK CASES (DEATH CERTIFICATE)**

**Quick 1**

A 50-year old man died during a witnessed grand mal seizure. He had sustained a penetrating brain injury from shrapnel during military service 25 years earlier. He had infrequent epileptic seizures (i.e., post-traumatic epilepsy) ever since. In the past, the seizures had been well controlled with Phenobarbital and Dilantin. An autopsy blood sample contained neither drug.

What is the cause and manner of death?  
Should this death be reported to the coroner/ME?

**Quick 2**

A 55-year old woman with advanced multiple sclerosis asphyxiates from aspiration of a bolus of food. Her blood was negative for ethyl alcohol and drugs.

What is the cause and manner of death?  
Should this death be reported to the coroner/ME?

**Quick 3**

A 43-year old man enters the hospital with abdominal pain and distention. Laparotomy discloses perforation of the duodenum by a wooden toothpick. Over the next six weeks, he develops peritonitis, subphrenic abscesses, septicemia, DLE, hepatic failure, renal failure, and adult respiratory distress syndrome.

What is the cause and manner of death?  
Should this death be reported to the coroner/ME?

**Quick 4**

A 45-year old woman sustained multiple bilateral rib fractures in a traffic accident. One week later she dies from bilateral confluent bronchopneumonia. Autopsy discloses no contusions or lacerations of her lungs; fractured rib margins to not penetrate into either pleural cavity.

What is the cause and manner of death?  
Should this death be reported to the coroner/ME?

QUESTIONS

C  
A  
S  
E

S  
T  
U  
D  
Y