

Disease terminology you may find on death certificates (A-N):

(A)

Ablepsy - Blindness
Ague - Malarial Fever
American plague - Yellow fever
Anasarca - Generalized massive edema
Aphonia - Laryngitis
Aphtha - The infant disease "thrush"
Apoplexy - Paralysis due to stroke
Asphyxia/Asphixia - Cyanotic and lack of oxygen
Atrophy - Wasting away or diminishing in size.

(B)

Bad Blood - Syphilis
Bilious fever - Typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or elevated temperature and bile emesis
Biliousness - Jaundice associated with liver disease
Black plague or death - Bubonic plague
Black fever - Acute infection with high temperature and dark red skin lesions and high mortality rate
Black pox - Black Small pox
Black vomit - Vomiting old black blood due to ulcers or yellow fever
Blackwater fever - Dark urine associated with high temperature
Bladder in throat - Diphtheria (Seen on death certificates)
Blood poisoning - Bacterial infection; septicemia
Bloody flux - Bloody stools
Bloody sweat - Sweating sickness
Bone shave - Sciatica
Brain fever - Meningitis
Breakbone - Dengue fever
Bright's disease - Chronic inflammatory disease of kidneys
Bronze John - Yellow fever
Bule - Boil, tumor or swelling

(C)

Cachexy - Malnutrition
Cacogastric - Upset stomach
Cacospysy - Irregular pulse
Caduceus - Subject to falling sickness or epilepsy
Camp fever - Typhus; aka Camp diarrhea
Canine madness - Rabies, hydrophobia
Canker - Ulceration of mouth or lips or herpes simplex
Catalepsy - Seizures / trances
Catarrhal - Nose and throat discharge from cold or allergy
Cerebritis - Inflammation of cerebrum or lead poisoning
Chilblain - Swelling of extremities caused by exposure to cold
Child bed fever - Infection following birth of a child
Chin cough - Whooping cough
Chlorosis - Iron deficiency anemia
Cholera - Acute severe contagious diarrhea with intestinal lining sloughing
Cholera morbus - Characterized by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, elevated temperature, etc. Could be appendicitis
Cholecystitis - Inflammation of the gall bladder
Cholelithiasis - Gall stones
Chorea - Disease characterized by convulsions, contortions and dancing
Cold plague - Ague which is characterized by chills
Colic - An abdominal pain and cramping
Congestive chills - Malaria
Consumption - Tuberculosis
Congestion - Any collection of fluid in an organ, like the lungs
Congestive chills - Malaria with diarrhea

Congestive fever - Malaria
 Corruption - Infection
 Coryza - A cold
 Costiveness - Constipation
 Cramp colic - Appendicitis
 Crop sickness - Overextended stomach
 Croup - Laryngitis, diphtheria, or strep throat
 Cyanosis - Dark skin color from lack of oxygen in blood
 Cynanche - Diseases of throat
 Cystitis - Inflammation of the bladder

D
 Day fever - Fever lasting one day; sweating sickness
 Debility - Lack of movement or staying in bed
 Decrepitude - Feebleness due to old age
 Delirium tremens - Hallucinations due to alcoholism
 Dengue - Infectious fever endemic to East Africa
 Dentition - Cutting of teeth
 Deplumation - Tumor of the eyelids which causes hair loss
 Diary fever - A fever that lasts one day
 Diphtheria - Contagious disease of the throat
 Distemper - Usually animal disease with malaise, discharge from nose and throat, anorexia
 Dock fever - Yellow fever
 Dropsy - Edema (swelling), often caused by kidney or heart disease
 Dropsy of the Brain - Encephalitis
 Dry Bellyache - Lead poisoning
 Dyscrasy - An abnormal body condition
 Dysentery - Inflammation of colon with frequent passage of mucous and blood
 Dysorexy - Reduced appetite
 Dyspepsia - Indigestion and heartburn. Heart attack symptoms
 Dysury - Difficulty in urination

(E)
 Eclampsy - Symptoms of epilepsy, convulsions during labor
 Ecstasy - A form of catalepsy characterized by loss of reason
 Edema - Nephrosis; swelling of tissues
 Edema of lungs - Congestive heart failure, a form of dropsy
 Eel thing - Erysipelas
 Elephantiasis - A form of leprosy
 Encephalitis - Swelling of brain; aka sleeping sickness
 Enteric fever - Typhoid fever
 Enterocolitis - Inflammation of the intestines
 Enteritis - Inflammation of the bowels
 Epitaxis - Nose bleed
 Erysipelas - Contagious skin disease, due to Streptococci with vesicular and bulbous lesions
 Extravasted blood - Rupture of a blood vessel

(F)
 Falling sickness - Epilepsy
 Fatty Liver - Cirrhosis of liver
 Fits - Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity
 Flux - An excessive flow or discharge of fluid like hemorrhage or diarrhea
 Flux of humour - Circulation
 French pox - Syphilis

(G)
 Gathering - A collection of pus
 Glandular fever - Mononucleosis
 Great pox - Syphilis

Green fever / sickness - Anemia
 Grippe/grip - Influenza like symptoms
 Grocer's itch - Skin disease caused by mites in sugar or flour

(H)

Heart sickness - Condition caused by loss of salt from body
 Heat stroke - Body temperature elevates because of surrounding environment temperature and body does not perspire to reduce temperature. Coma and death result if not reversed
 Hectical complaint - Recurrent fever
 Hematemesis - Vomiting blood
 Hematuria - Bloody urine
 Hemiplegy - Paralysis of one side of body
 Hip gout - Osteomyelitis
 Horrors - Delirium tremens
 Hydrocephalus - Enlarged head, water on the brain
 Hydropericardium - Heart dropsy
 Hydrophobia - Rabies
 Hydrothroax - Dropsy in chest
 Hypertrophic - Enlargement of organ, like the heart

(I)

Impetigo - Contagious skin disease characterized by pustules
 Inanition - Physical condition resulting from lack of food
 Infantile paralysis - Polio
 Intestinal colic - Abdominal pain due to improper diet

(J)

Jail fever - Typhus
 Jaundice - Condition caused by blockage of intestines King's evil – Tuberculosis of neck and lymph glands

(K)

King's evil –Tuberculosis of neck and lymph glands
 Kruchhusten - Whooping cough

(L)

Lagrippe - Influenza
 Lockjaw - Tetanus or infectious disease affecting the muscles of the neck and jaw. Untreated, it is fatal in 8 days
 Long sickness - Tuberculosis
 Lues disease - Syphilis
 Lues venera - Venereal disease
 Lumbago - Back pain
 Lung fever - Pneumonia
 Lung sickness – Tuberculosis
 Lying in - Time of delivery of infant

(M)

Malignant sore throat - Diphtheria
 Mania - Insanity
 Marasmus - Progressive wasting away of body, like malnutrition
 Membranous Croup - Diphtheria
 Meningitis - Inflammations of brain or spinal cord
 Metritis - Inflammation of uterus or purulent vaginal discharge
 Miasma - Poisonous vapors thought to infect the air
 Milk fever - Disease from drinking contaminated milk, like undulant fever or brucellosis

Milk leg - Post partum thrombophlebitis

Milk sickness - Disease from milk of cattle which had eaten poisonous weeds

Mormal - Gangrene

Morphew - Scurvy blisters on the body

Mortification - Gangrene of necrotic tissue

Myelitis - Inflammation of the spine

Myocarditis - Inflammation of heart muscles

(N)

Necrosis - Mortification of bones or tissue

Nephrosis - Kidney degeneration

Nepritis - Inflammation of kidneys

Nervous prostration - Extreme exhaustion from inability to control physical and mental activities

Neuralgia - Described as discomfort, such as "Headache" was neuralgia in head

Nostalgia - Homesickness

Contributed by

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