

# DEATH BROADCAST

from the Office of the State Registrar of Vital Statistics

JUNE 2017



## EDR Tab Order Change

Effective June 7, 2017, our office will be switching the tab order of the Cause of Death and the Injury screens within the medical section of the Data Entry screen in EDR. The change will show the "Medical - COD" tab above the "Medical - Injury" tab on the left hand side of the death certificate data entry screen.

The Office of the State Registrar reports vital records data from death certificates to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) on a regular basis. As part of data quality assurance checks, it was recently brought to our attention that an abnormal amount of death certificates were registered that contained injury information and a 'Natural' cause of death. Although this may be true in some cases, in general, a 'Natural' cause of death does not involve an injury. During routine QA checks, we have found that many of these instances were in fact data entry errors, resulting in many false positives.

In order to help minimize the occurrence of these false positives, we are making a system change in EDR to show the "Medical - Cause of Death" tab above the "Medical - Injury" tab. Changing the tab order of these fields allows for the cause of death information to be collected before the injury information. Therefore, in the case when 'Natural' is entered as a cause of death, EDR will **automatically provide** a 'No' response to the injury question; currently, the injury information is collected before the cause of death, therefore, the default mechanism is not being activated. Although marking 'Natural' on the manner will execute this command as a result of the change, the injury response will still allow certifiers to change the response and enter in injury information, allowing for those cases where a "Natural" cause of death is connected to an injury.

If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to contact us at 303-692-2191 or [cdphe.vitalrecords411@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.vitalrecords411@state.co.us).

## Searching Physicians on EDR

When searching physicians or coroners on the EDR system, funeral homes may find faster and more accurate results by only entering partial names; for instance, use only the first 2-3 letters of first/last name for search. This will then eliminate the possible misspelling of a name and will populate the grid with potential names.

## Confirm Facility Name/Address on Place of Death

When entering the nursing home or hospice facility in EDR, please confirm that the name and address are the correct location you are looking for. There are a number of facilities with the same or similar names, and you can ensure that you have the correct one by looking at the address that is auto-filled when the facility is chosen. A second look may help avoid a correction later.

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## Funeral Home EDR Users Added to Registry

When the state office receives an EDR Access Request form for a funeral home employee, they will be added to the Funeral Establishment Registry, if they are not already listed. The EDR paperwork is signed saying they can create/sign death certificates for a particular funeral home, so it serves the same intent as the Funeral Establishment Registration form. For questions, contact [renee.bear@state.co.us](mailto:renee.bear@state.co.us).

## Toll Free Calls to State

If you call the department's main, toll free number, [800-886-7689](tel:800-886-7689), you may no longer transfer to extensions that do not have voicemail, such as extensions 2245, 2226, 2208. You may still transfer to all other extensions or call numbers directly.

## Registering "Redlines?" Abandon in EDR

If you create a record in EDR, but then need to register a hardcopy redline instead, we ask that you please remember to "Abandon" the record in EDR. When the state vital records office enters the hardcopy redline into EDR, we are unable to save the record until the initial record is abandoned, as it creates a duplicate in the system. Thank you for your diligence in keeping these records abandoned from your Work Queue.

## Registration of Delayed Death Record

If a death record is submitted for registration, and the date of event is more than one year prior, it may not be registered by the local vital record office. This is a 'delayed' record and must be submitted to the state office for registration.

## Coroner Signature on Historic Death Records

As the state vital records office enters older death records into the system, so that they may be available for electronic issuance, we are encountering some illegible fields. One such field is the coroner signature field. The state office will continue to add the county/name of the office who signed but will no longer ask local vital records offices or coroner offices if they may know the signature or name. In these cases, the name of the individual signer will not be included on the electronic issuance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tami Rodriguez, Issuance Unit Manager, at [tami.rodriguez@state.co.us](mailto:tami.rodriguez@state.co.us) or 303.692.2228.

## Welcome to EDR

We would like to welcome the following agencies/offices to the EDR system: Crowley County Coroner, Lake County Coroner, Comi Funeral Home, Bailey-Kent and Kent Funeral Homes, Halcyon Hospice, and Weisbrod Memorial County Hospital.

## 'Who Gets Killed in America?' The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)

The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is a state-based surveillance system that makes the nation's death data available for public health research. There was a recent article about how NVDRS is using our data and the importance of generating timely, quality data for them and other public health partners. NVDRS recently released Who Gets Killed in America? The National Violent Death Reporting System is Keeping Track, a three-page overview that includes useful information for those unfamiliar with the system (attached).

## Data/Feedback Email

The state vital records office has begun to brainstorm various types of information that may be provided to offices about timeliness, data quality, etc. The information would be specific for your office and sent via unencrypted email. We want the information to be useful to you as regular feedback of outstanding work and highlighting possible areas for discussion.

For example, birthing hospitals, free standing birth centers and midwives could receive information about their own timeliness, AOP acceptance numbers/percentages, legal correction numbers, and data completeness. Funeral establishments and coroners offices could receive information about the number of pending death records, data completeness, registration by record type (electronic, drop to paper, redline), etc.

The proposed timeline is to discuss what to include over the next couple of months, test it with some volunteer recipients this fall and everyone could start receiving their information by the end of the year.

If you have ideas or suggestions for non-identifying data or feedback that would be useful to you, would like to see teleconferences/webinars scheduled for discussions, or would like to volunteer as a pilot recipient, please contact Michelle Cowell, Field Unit Manager, at [michelle.cowell@state.co.us](mailto:michelle.cowell@state.co.us) or 303.692.2183.

## EDR Survey Questions/Comments

In response to various questions and comments that were provided to the state office via the recent EDR Survey, we wanted to provide a few responses. Questions and comments came in from Coroners, Funeral Directors and Local Vital Records offices. Please see the attached 2017 EDR Survey Comments document for responses from the state vital records office.

*Thanks for your time and attention!*

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