

Pa.'s Transition to Electronic Death Reporting

BACKGROUND

The PA Department of Health is transitioning from the historic process of reporting deaths on paper to electronic reporting. This modernized way of reporting is done through the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS).

WHO DOES THE ISSUE IMPACT?

This initiative improves death reporting in Pennsylvania for funeral homes, hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, primary care offices, medical examiners and coroners.

All facility staff granted access can enter data into EDRS. This includes administrative staff, funeral directors, coroners, medical examiners, primary care physicians, and medical professionals (such as attending physicians, certified registered nurse practitioners, physician assistants and dentists) that are employed or on contract with a licensed healthcare facility.

% OF DEATHS REPORTED THROUGH EDRS FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

- Funeral Homes – 99% of all cases
- Coroners – 85.7% of all cases
- Hospitals – 62.3% of all cases
- Hospices – 45.1% of all cases
- Nursing homes – 29.6% of all cases
- Primary care offices – 13.7% of all cases

WHAT DOES EDRS DO?

EDRS is based on Pennsylvania's "Certificate of Death" reporting form. This system simplifies death reporting by guiding the users through only the specific questions that applies to the user's role. For example, a funeral director is only presented with the personal and demographic portion of the "Certificate of Death" reporting form. Medical professionals only see the medical portion associated with natural deaths, while medical examiners and coroners have access to all medical items.

EDRS improves the timeliness and quality of death data reporting which is critical to families that experience the loss of a loved one, and for public health purposes.

EDRS is a free, highly secure web-based system administered by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries. This system is part of a nationwide initiative promoted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to modernize death reporting in our nation.

EDRS is easy to use and is accessible 24/7 anywhere that internet access is available.

HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED?

To adopt EDRS at your facility, please send an email to RA-DHDeathSupport@PA.gov. Please include your name, job title, facility, and phone number in the email. Upon receipt of that email, a member of our EDRS Outreach team will be in touch to gather additional information, arrange a demo, and discuss training and implementation.

RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information and training resources for EDRS are published online at www.doh.pa.gov/EDRS.

If you have any questions, contact us at RA-DHDeathSupport@pa.gov or call us at 800-323-9613.