

For those situations where the funeral director is using EDRS, but the medical certifier is not, the funeral director can complete the case electronically, then print the certificate and submit the paper record to the doctor.

In EDRS, the medical certifier can start the case, rather than waiting to receive the certificate from the funeral home. This may be of particular benefit to hospitalists who can complete their portion of the death certificate at the same time they complete the medical record.

OTHER EDRS FEATURES

EDRS allows for a nearly paperless system, except for certified copies and disposition permits. Funeral directors can print disposition permits on plain paper. If desired, funeral directors and medical certifiers can print working copies of the record for their files.

Upcoming features of the system include:

- Replacement of the 24-hour notice cards by starting a case in EDRS;
- Online SSN verification;
- Disinterment permit application and printing.

WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR IMPLEMENTING EDRS?

We completed our three county pilot testing in early September, 2006, and have begun statewide rollout. This initial phase of the rollout is occurring county by county until early summer 2007.

In January 2008, we will implement the Electronic Birth Registration System, with the Marriage and Divorce systems scheduled to begin in 2009.

FURTHER INFORMATION

There is a lot of information available on our website. The website address is: www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/overs/. You can find current information about the rollout schedule and upcoming system training. The publications page includes this brochure as well as newsletters, PowerPoint presentations and an Impact Assessment which includes more discussion of how this program may affect your business.

If you have any further questions about EDRS or OVERS, please contact us.

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The Oregon Electronic Death Registration System: EDRS

part of the Oregon Vital Events Registration System:

OVERS



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WHAT IS EDRS?

EDRS is the acronym for the Electronic Death Registration System. With this system, death certificates are completed online, at a secure website, rather than on paper. Both the funeral director and medical certifier can complete their portion and sign the certificate by using a fingerprint reader, which is provided free of charge by the state. The system is easy to use and very intuitive. EDRS is the first module of the Oregon Vital Events Registration System, or OVERS. Future modules include birth, marriage and divorce registration systems.

WHY DOES OREGON NEED AN EDRS?

The Center for Health Statistics collects approximately 33,000 death certificates each year. Currently our death registration system is paper-based. Data providers use typewriters or complete vital records by hand. Death records are hand-carried or mailed to doctors' offices for completion of the cause of death section and then mailed or hand-carried to county vital records offices. Our current paper-based system no longer meets the needs of our customers or public health officials who need the data for public health surveillance. It can take up to four weeks for our office to get a death certificate and

make it available for issuance. Cause of death information for analysis may not be available for up to three months after the date of death. The Oregon Center for Health Statistics must create a faster, more accurate and more efficient death record filing, registration, certification and statistical system.

HOW WILL EDRS AFFECT YOUR DAILY WORK?

With EDRS a death certificate can be registered in the system within a day or two, greatly improving overall timeliness of the process. This allows participants to complete their records sooner and the families can also receive their copies of the death certificate more quickly.

To further enhance the speed and convenience of online data entry, support staff can complete all the information in the record, allowing the funeral director and medical certifier to quickly review and electronically sign. Users will also receive automatic internal system messages and external email about cases ready to be completed, greatly simplifying the referral process.

This new system also performs many data quality checks before allowing a record to be electronically signed. This will greatly increase the accuracy of submitted

records, resulting in significantly fewer queries and corrections. For example:

- Blanks will be avoided through prompts to complete mandatory fields;
- Contradictory information (such as date of death minus date of birth doesn't equal age) will be caught;
- Addresses for all participants will be automatically entered as will medical certifier titles;
- Dates signed will also be entered automatically.

If any corrections are needed after the record is registered, they can usually be submitted through the system, avoiding the use of paper affidavits.

Records registered electronically will be immediately available for issuance at the local registrar's office, where the copies are printed directly on the security paper. In some cases, unusual information in the record may require review by our office before certified copies can be issued. This review will be completed within one business day. For fully electronic records, counties will not need to forward a paper record to the state.