Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)
User Guide:
Medical Facilities

12/18/2017
EDRS Quick Reference Sheets for Medical Facilities

This User Guide is comprised of the following Quick Reference Sheets:

- QRS-2000, Finding a Death Case Someone Else Started
- QRS-2004-MC, Creating a New Death Case: Medical Information
- QRS-2005, Entering Other as Place of Death
- QRS-2006-MC, Certifying a Death Case
- QRS-2007, Entering Pronouncement Information
- QRS-2010, Requesting Medical Certification
- QRS-2015, Printing a Working Copy (Noncertified)
- QRS-2016, Dropping a Death Case to Paper
- QRS-2017, Abandoning a Death Case
- QRS-2018, Removing an Abandoned Case Status
- QRS-2021-MC, Amending a Death Case: Replacement Medical
- QRS-2022-MC, Amending a Death Case: Medical
- QRS-2024, Editing an Amendment Request
- QRS-2032, Referring a Death Case to the Coroner/Medical Examiner
- QRS-2034, Viewing the Processing History of an Amendment
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Finding a Death Case Someone Else Started

1. Determine which search method you need to use.
   - If the case was started by another facility, you must use the **Death Start/Edit New Case** search because this case is new (not associated) to you and your facility.
   - If the case was started (associated with) your facility, use the **Death Locate Case** search.

2. Begin your search by clicking the **Death Start/Edit New Case** link or the **Locate Case** link on your Home page.

3. Enter the required data and click the **Search** button.
   - **Start/Edit New Case** search: You must enter the **Decedent's Name**, **Date of Death** and **Gender** EXACTLY as the other facility entered it because it is looking for an exact match. If you cannot find the case, try the search again using a different spelling or contact the other facility to confirm how the data was entered.
   - **Locate Case** search: If you cannot locate the case, your facility might not have ownership yet. Try using the **Start/Edit New Case** search.

4. If one or more results display, you can click the **Preview** link to view additional case information to help you determine if this is the case you are looking for.

5. If you find the case you need, click the **Decedent Name** link or the **Select** link to open the case.

   If you do not find the case you need, contact the person/facility who started the case to confirm how the name, date of death and gender was entered. Then search again using that confirmed information. If that does not work, go to the **Death Start/Edit New Case** search and click the **Start New Case** button to create a new case.
Creating A New Death Case: Medical Information
(Physician/Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant*)

**Note:** To avoid duplication of cases, before you create a new case you must perform a Death Start/Edit New Case search to determine if the case was already started by another party.

1. Click the Death Start/Edit New Case link on your Home page to search for existing cases that match the case on which you are working.

   **Note:** The Death Locate Case search is only used to locate cases you have already started.

2. Enter the required data and click the Search button.

3. If you find a matching case, click the Decedent’s Name link to open the case.
   
   If you cannot find any matching cases, click the Start New Case button.

   **Note:** If you know the case was started but cannot find it, ask exactly how this data was entered and search again.

4. Click the Pronouncement link on the Medical Certification section of the Death Registration Menu.

5. Pronouncement screen:
   - Enter required data (Date, Time of Death, and Modifier fields)
   - Enter the pronouncer data, if appropriate (Optional)
   - Click the Next button

   **IMPORTANT:** If the Pronouncer and Certifier are the same person, you must use the Lookup search ( ) to locate/select the Pronouncer. Manually entering data in these fields will generate an error during the certification process.

6. Place of Death screen:
   - The facility name and address will pre-populate based on your login credentials.
   - Select the Type of place of death
   - Click the Next button
7 Cause of Death screen:
- Enter the required data in Part I including the Immediate Cause, Due to or as a Consequence of, and Approximate Interval Onset to Death
- Enter the required data in Part II for Other significant conditions
- Click the Next button

8 Other Factors screen:
- Enter the required data
- Click the Next button

Note: You can only select an answer to the pregnancy question when the decedent was a female between the ages of 10 and 65.

9 Certifier screen:
- Enter the required data
- Click the Save button

IMPORTANT:
If you are not the medical certifier, you must use the Lookup search ( ) to locate/select the certifier. Manually entering data in these fields will generate an error that prevents the certifier from certifying the case.

If you are the medical certifier, your identifying information will pre-populate based on your login credentials.

Note: Do not enter a date in the Date Signed field. This information will automatically be generated when the case is certified.

10 Click the Validate Page button to validate all of the data entered.
An amendment to the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 will permit physician assistants to act as medical certifiers for death cases beginning September 5, 2017.

*An amendment to the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 will permit physician assistants to act as medical certifiers for death cases beginning September 5, 2017.*
Entering Other as Place of Death

1. From the Place of Death screen select Other (specify) from the Type of place of death drop-down list, then complete the rest of the fields as follows:

   **Type of place of death** | Other (specify) | Other Specify | Highway

   If the death occurred on a highway, select Other (specify).
   - Enter Highway in the Other Specify field.
   - Enter as much of the Street Address as is available.
   - The City, County, State, Country and Zip Code must be entered.
   - Do not enter “scene.”

   **Type of place of death** | Other (specify) | Other Specify | Friend’s Residence

   If the death occurred in a residence other than the decedent’s home, select Other (specify).
   - Enter a description of the residence in the Other Specify field, such as Friend’s Residence.
   - Enter the full address including Street Address, City, County, State, Country and Zip Code.

   **Type of place of death** | Other (specify) | Other Specify | Smith Personal Care Home

   If the death occurred in a personal care home, select Other (specify).
   - Enter the name of the personal care home such as Smith Personal Care Home in the Other Specify field.
   - Enter the full address including Street Address, City, County, State, Country and Zip Code.

2. Click the Save or Next button to continue.
Certifying A Death Case

1. From the Home screen, a row of Fast Links will display. Click on the Fast Link for Messages.

2. The Messages screen will display. Each row is a message. In each row under the Message Text column, there is a link (shown as decedent’s name) to the case of a decedent. Click the name of the decedent for the death case to be certified.

3. From the decedent’s death case, click the Pronouncement link on the Medical Certification section of the Death Registration Menu to review and verify the information.

4. Click the Next button to review and verify the Place of Death information.

5. Click the Next button to enter or verify the Cause of Death information.

6. Click the Next button to review and verify the Other Factors information.

7. Click the Next button to review and verify the Certifier information.
Click the **Certify** link on the Death Registration Menu to review the Affirmations screen.

**IMPORTANT:** The **Certify** link only displays for medical certifiers, and only when all of the medical information has been validated. If you are a medical certifier and the **Certify** link is not displaying, click the **Validate Page** button to validate the case.

Select the **Affirm** checkbox and click the **Affirm** button to certify the case.

When the case is affirmed, a confirmation message displays and the **Certify** link has a checkmark next to it.
Entering Pronouncement Information

**Notes:** Date and time of death information must be entered at the top of the Pronouncement screen. However, the rest of the fields on the Pronouncement screen are optional because pronouncement of death is not required in Pennsylvania.

1. From the death case, click the **Pronouncement** link on the **Medical Certification** section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. Review, and if necessary, edit the **Date of Death** and select the **Date of Death Modifier** from the drop-down list.

3. Enter the **Time of Death** and select **AM, PM**, or **Military** from the drop-down list.
   - **Note:** Enter single digit times as two digits.
   - **Example:** 7:09 is entered as 07:09

4. Select the **Time of Death Modifier**.

5. **Optional:** Enter the **Date Pronounced Dead**.

6. **Optional:** Enter the **Time Pronounced Dead** and select **AM, PM**, or **Military** from the drop-down list.

7. **Optional:** If you are a coroner/medical examiner, physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant*, enter the **Pronouncer Name** information using one of the following methods (both of these methods will auto-populate all of the Pronouncer Name fields):
   - Enter the **License Number** and click the **Auto-Populate** icon, or
   - Click the **Lookup** icon to search for the name.
   - **Note:** If you are a professional nurse, enter the information manually.

8. Enter the **Date Signed** for the pronouncement.
   - **Note:** The **Date Signed** is only required when the **Pronouncer Name** information is entered.

9. Click the **Save or Next** button to save this data.

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Requesting Medical Certification

1. From the death case, click the Request Medical Certification link on the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. Click the Lookup icon to search for the Certifier’s Name.

3. Search for the Certifier’s Name.

   Tip: If you are having difficulty finding the certifier you need, enter a few letters of the certifier’s Last Name followed by the Wildcard symbol (%). Example: Sny%

4. Select the Certifier’s Name.

5. Click the Lookup icon to search and select the Facility/Office Name.

6. Search for the Facility/Office Name.

   Tip: Entering just the Wildcard symbol (%) will display all facilities that the selected certifier is associated with.

7. Select the Certifier’s Name.

8. The selected certifier and facility display below the Lookup icons.

   Click the Save button to send the request.

9. The status bar displays Medical Certification Requested.
Printing a Working Copy (Noncertified)

**Note:** A working copy (noncertified) can be printed at any time, even after the case has been registered.

1. From the death case, click the **Print Forms** link in the **Other Links** section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. From the Print Forms screen, click the **Working Copy (Noncertified)** link.

3. At the bottom of the screen, click the **Open** button to display a working copy (noncertified) in a new window.

   ![Open button]

   **Note:** The working copy (noncertified) will print ALL information that has been entered in the death case.

4. To print a working copy (noncertified), click the **Printer** icon located in the top left corner of the document.

   **Note:** Clicking the **Printer** icon automatically sets the printer to the recommended settings for printing the working copy (noncertified).

5. Click the **Print** button to print the working copy (noncertified) and close the document window.
Dropping a Death Case to Paper

Note: An electronic death case can only be dropped to paper when it is signed or certified.

1. From the death case, click the Print Forms link on the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. From the Print Forms screen, click the Drop to Paper link.

   Note: The Drop to Paper link will be disabled if the case does not have a Signed or Certified status.

3. A confirmation box displays with important information. Click the OK button to proceed.

   IMPORTANT: When a case is dropped to paper:
   - The electronic case is locked, so no changes can be made.
   - The drop to paper process cannot be reversed.
   - Drop to paper certificates only print the data entered in your section of the death case.

4. At the bottom of the screen, click the Open button to display the drop to paper certificate in a new window.

5. Click the Printer icon located in the top left corner of the document.

   IMPORTANT: When a case is dropped to paper:
   - You only have ONE opportunity to print the paper certificate.
   - Clicking the Printer icon automatically sets the printer to the recommended settings for printing.
   - If you need to print this document again, contact the EDRS Hotline for assistance.

6. Click the Print button to print the certificate, then close the document window.
Abandoning a Death Case

**Notes:** Electronic death cases cannot be removed or deleted, but abandoning a case will disable it. Therefore, all **unregistered** electronic case that cannot be completed should be assigned the status of “Abandoned.” Registered cases cannot be abandoned and must be voided by the Division of Vital Records.

1. From the death case, click the **Assign Status** link.
2. Select the **New Special Status** button from the Assign Special Status dialog box.
3. Select **Abandoned** from the **Status** drop-down list and enter a **Reason**.

   ![Assign Special Status dialog box]

   - Status: Abandoned
   - Reason: Duplicate Record

4. Click the **Save** link.
5. Click the **OK** button to confirm the status change.
6. Click the **Close** button.

   The status bar now includes the word **Abandoned** and a checkmark now displays to the left of the **Assign Status** link on the Death Registration Menu.

   ![Death Registration Menu with status bar]

7. **Note:** For detailed information on removing an abandoned status from a death case, reference **QRS-2018, Removing an Abandoned Case Status**.
**Removing an Abandoned Case Status**

**Note:** Abandoned cases have the word *Abandoned* in the status bar, a checkmark next to the **Assign Status** link, and the case is read-only.

1. From the death case, click the **Assign Status** link.

2. From the **Assign Special Status** dialog box, click the **Delete** link.

3. Click the **OK** button to confirm that you want to delete the status of *Abandoned*.

4. Click the **Close** button.

5. The checkmark no longer displays beside the **Assign Status** link, the case status returned to the status prior to abandonment, and the ability to enter or modify data has been restored.
Amending a Death Case: Replacement Medical

Notes:
- Replacement Medical amendments must be used when you need to change/update the cause of death, change the medical certifier, or when all of the medical information is being replaced.
- If the cause of death changes, determine whether the manner of death should also be changed. If so, make that change as well.
- Each time a Replacement Medical amendment is done, the certifier’s “date signed” must be updated to the date of the Replacement Medical amendment.
- To electronically amend a death case after the case has been registered, the case must have been electronically certified by your facility.
- If the case does not have a status of Registered, wait until it becomes electronically registered to submit the amendment request electronically. If the case has not yet been dropped to paper or registered, you can uncertify the case and make your change. For detailed information on uncertifying a death case, reference QRS-2046, Uncertifying a Death Case.

IMPORTANT: If you certified the death on paper, you must submit the amendment on paper.

From the registered death case, click the Amendments link in the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

Select Replacement Medical from the Amendment Page Type drop-down list.

Enter an Amendment Description and click the Save button.

Use the following format: Correction – Field Name(s)

Example: Correction - Cause of Death

All of the medical information displays below the amendment request fields. Scroll down the screen and make all of the necessary changes.

You must amend one or more of the following:
- Cause of Death
- Certifier

If there are any validation error messages, correct or override the message(s) and click the Validate Amendment button again.

Click the Save button to submit the amendment request.
Click the OK button to submit the amendment request.

The Amendment Status now displays as Amendment Pending Approval.

Click the Return button to return to the Decedent screen.

Notes:
- The person who submitted the request is the only one who is notified when the amendment request is approved or rejected.
- Amendment requests and approved amendments can only be seen by users from the same facility. So the funeral home will not be able to view the replacement medical amendment request.
- When an amendment request is approved, the status of the request changes to Complete and the words Amendment Exists display to the right of the decedent’s name at the top of the screen.
Amending a Death Case: Medical

Notes:
- This process cannot be used to change the certifier, or make any updates to the cause of death page. To change certifier or cause of death information, you must submit a Replacement Medical amendment.
- Each amendment is reviewed for approval by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries. Allow one full business day for this process to be completed.

1. From the registered death case, click the Amendments link in the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. Select Medical from the Amendment Page Type drop-down list.

3. Enter an Amendment Description and click the Save button. Use the following format: Correction – Field Name(s) (Examples: Correction – Other Factors, Correction – Type of Place of Death)

4. Select the Page to Amend from the drop-down list.

5. The fields from the selected page display below the amendment request. Make the necessary change(s) and click the Validate Page button.

   IMPORTANT: DO NOT CLICK SAVE UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL CHANGES.

6. An Item in Error table displays in the middle of the Amendment Page with all of the changes you have made. Review and confirm the changes.

7. If there are any validation error messages, correct or override the message(s) and click the Validate Page button again.

8. If additional information needs to be amended, select a new page from the Page to Amend drop-down list and repeat Step #5 and #6.
The Item in Error table updates to include the additional changes. Review and confirm the changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item In Error</th>
<th>Item as it Appears</th>
<th>Item as It Should Be</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Place of Death-Place of Death Type</td>
<td>Hospital-Inpatient</td>
<td>Hospital/ER, Outpatient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When all changes have been completed, click the Save button to submit the amendment request.

Click the OK button to submit the amendment request.

The Amendment Status now displays as Amendment Pending Approval. This status remains until the amendment is reviewed by the Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries (allow one full business day for review).

Notes:
- The person who submitted the request is the only one who is notified when the amendment request is approved or rejected.
- Amendment requests and approved amendments can only be seen by users from the same facility. So if the funeral director submits an amendment request, the medical certifier will not be able to view the request or the submitted amendment.
- When an amendment request is approved, the status of the request changes to Complete and the words Amendment Exists display to the right of the decedent’s name at the top of the screen.
Editing an Amendment Request

**Note:** This is used when the Division of Vital Records has not yet approved the amendment. If it has been approved by the Division of Vital Records, then another amendment must be entered instead.

1. From the registered case, click the Amendment List link in the Registrar section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. Click the Amendment ID link to view the details of the amendment to be edited.

3. The Amendment Page displays. The data in the amendment request can be edited if the amendment status is Amendment Pending Approval and the Item in Error table displays with Edit links.

   To edit the amendment request, click an Edit link to display the page that you need, or select a page from the Page to Amend drop-down list.

   **Note:** To remove an item from the amendment request, click the Delete link for that item.

4. The selected screen displays. Make the necessary change(s) and click the Validate Page button.

5. If there are any validation error messages, correct or override the message(s) and click the Validate Page button again.

6. The Item to Amend table updates to reflect all changes that were made.

   If additional changes need to be made, select the appropriate Edit link or select a new page from the Page to Amend drop-down list and repeat Step #4 and #5.

7. When finished, click the Return button to return to the Amendment List.
Referring a Death Case to the Coroner/Medical Examiner

Notes:
- Before using DAVE™ to refer a case, ensure that the coroner/medical examiner’s office is trained in the use of DAVE™ and actively using it.
- When a case is referred to the coroner/medical examiner’s office, all end users in that office will receive a message in DAVE™ notifying them that ownership of the case has been transferred to that office.

1. From the death case, click the Transfer Case link in the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. The Transfer Case screen displays. In the Transfer Medical Ownership To field, first click the checkbox to insert a checkmark. Then click the Lookup ( ) icon.

   ![Transfer Case screen with Lookup button]

3. The Lookup office to transfer medical ownership to dialog box displays. Search for the coroner/medical examiner’s office by entering all or part of the County Name followed by the Wildcard symbol (%) in the Facility Name field and click the Search button.

4. Click the select link beside the name of the coroner/medical examiner’s office to whom the case is to be referred.

5. The Transfer Case screen will display again. Review your selections and the auto-generated text in the Message field. Optional: You may enter additional message text, but it is not required.

6. Click the Save button to transfer the case to the selected coroner/medical examiner’s office.

   ![Save button]

Note: Clicking the Save button immediately transfers ownership to the coroner/medical examiner’s office, which means that your facility will no longer be able to access the case. Before you click the Save button, make sure you are transferring the case to the correct office.
Viewing the Processing History of an Amendment

After an amendment is submitted, the Amendment List link displays in the Registrar section of the Death Registration Menu.

From the death case, click the Amendment List link to view all amendment requests and completed amendments that you have submitted for this case.

**Note:** You will not be able to view amendment information submitted by other users.

The Amendment List displays. Any notes or actions taken on the amendment can be viewed on the Processing History screen.

To view the history of an amendment, click the History link.

The Processing History screen displays. When an amendment request has been processed, information will be entered in the Processing History fields by the Division of Vital Records.

The Status History table displays every action related to the amendment along with the date, the status and the login of the user who took the action.

Amendment Statuses
- When an amendment is entered but has not been submitted for approval, the status displays as Keyed and Amendment Approval Pending.
- When an amendment has been submitted for review, the status changes to Amendment Pending Approval.
- If an amendment is approved, rejected, or cancelled the status changes to Complete, Rejected, or Cancelled.

Click the Return button to return to the Amendment List.
Uncertifying a Death Case

**Note:** If updated information is obtained on a case that has already been certified, **but not yet registered**, the certifier can uncertify the case to make the necessary updates.

1. From the death case, click the **Certify** link in the *Medical Certification* section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. Click the **Uncertify** button to uncertify the death case.

3. A Confirmation dialog box displays. Click the **OK** button to confirm that you want to uncertify the death case.

4. The case is now uncertified and the **Certify** link no longer appears in the Death Registration Menu.

5. Make the necessary updates to the *Medical Information* section.

6. When all revisions are complete, click the **Validate Page** button to revalidate the death case and verify that all updates are accurate.

7. When validation is successful, you must re-certify the death case. Click the **Certify** link.

8. Click the check box (□) to affirm, and click the **Affirm** button.
Relinquishing a Case

Note: This feature is used to remove ownership of a case from the entire facility. Relinquishing ownership can be performed by any end user from the facility that currently owns the unregistered death case. After the case has been relinquished, another facility can take ownership.

1. From the death case, click the Relinquish Case link on the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. The Relinquish Case dialog box displays with a reminder that you will no longer have ownership of, or access to, the case once it is relinquished.

   Click the OK button to relinquish the case.

   After clicking the OK button, you are returned to the Home page.

Note: If no other facility has claimed ownership of the case, ownership can be reclaimed by using the Start/Edit New Case search to locate and open the case.
Removing Certifier From Case

**NOTE:** This feature allows a medical certifier to remove themselves as the assigned medical certifier of a case while still keeping the case within the same facility. This action allows another medical certifier from the same facility to assume responsibility for medical certification of the case. Removing a certifier can only be performed by the certifier who is currently assigned the responsibility for medical certification.

1. From the death case, click the **Remove Certifier From Case** link on the *Other Links* section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. The Remove Certifier From Case dialog box displays with a message for you to verify that you are not responsible for medical certification. Click the **OK** button to remove yourself from the case.

After clicking the **OK** button, you are returned to the Home page.

**NOTE:** If you need to certify the case, use one of these methods:

- If medical certification has not been requested of another medical certifier, use the **Locate Case** search to locate the case. Open the case to certify it.

- If you are to certify the case but it is currently assigned to a different medical certifier, ask that person to perform the **Remove Certifier From Case** process, then use the **Locate Case** search to locate the case and it.
Adding Comments

Notes:
- Comments should be pertinent to the overall death registration process.
- Comments should not be used to respond to data entry queries from the Department of Health.
- Anyone that accesses the case will be able to view the comments.

1. From the death case, click the Comments link in the Other Links section of the Death Registration Menu.

2. The Comments dialog box displays. Click the New Comment button to enter a new comment.

3. The Edit New Comment section displays. Select a Comment Type.

4. Enter your comment in the Comment field and click the Save button.

5. The Comments dialog box displays the newly added comment. When finished with the comments, click the Close button.

Notes:
- You can edit or delete comments by using the Edit or Delete links.
- You can only edit or delete comment(s) that you created.
- To add another comment, click the New Comment button.

6. The death case displays with a checkmark to the left of the Comments link to indicate that one or more comments are associated with this case.