

Electronic Birth Registration Update

Vital Statistics just keeps adding hospitals to the list of online facilities registering births via the Internet. The accompanying sidebar lists hospitals online as of September 30, 2007. These hospitals' birth records are entered via **Electronic Birth Registration (EBR)** — birth records that do not have to be forwarded to the state office then manually keyed into the state database. The hospital birth registrar enters the data and in real time, the information is transmitted electronically to the State Office of Vital Statistics. Mom is able to go by the health department and pick up her baby's certification on her way home from the hospital.

This EBR system is not only operating successfully in Florida, but also in Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, and South Dakota. Florida hospitals are pleased with the efficiency of the registration process. Whether using a desktop PC, printer, and signature pad to enter the birth data, or a mobile cart, equipped with laptop, printer, and signature pad, the transition from the hospital's current system to EBR has been an easy one. Entering via the Internet and Citrix software keeps EBR from being an issue as it relates to hospital security and firewall issues. Social Security Enumeration is much faster, something parents are quite happy about — they have their child's number in a couple of weeks. EBR is available to hospitals at no charge. With the ease of operation, the almost immediate transmittal of the data, and elimination of paper records filed with the county, the system speaks for itself. EBR is the only avenue for uploading birth data; Florida will not be utilizing any external systems to upload data to Vital Statistics.

Jana Duffy, EBR Project Lead, continues to work with facilities statewide in assessing their processes and how that translates to the electronic environment. Any questions regarding EBR should be directed to Jana at (904) 359-6900 ext. 1087 or (904) 524-0311 or jana_duffy@doh.state.fl.us.

ONLINE HOSPITALS

Baptist Medical Center South	11/06
Baptist Medical Center Downtown	1/07
Baptist Medical Center Beaches	4/07
Wuesthoff Memorial	4/07
Wuesthoff Medical Center	5/07
Tallahassee Memorial Health Care	5/07
NAS Jacksonville	5/07
Shands At Alachua General	5/07
Baptist Medical Center Nassau	6/07
Shands Jacksonville	7/07
Glades General Hospital	8/07
Jupiter Medical Center	8/07
Mt. Sinai Medical Center	8/07
Sacred Heart of the Emerald Coast	9/07
Plantation General	9/07

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MEET 'N GREET

This month say hello to our **Corrections/Amendment Staff**. These exceptional and diligent employees are part of the Records Amendment Section, under the direction of Betty Shannon, Operations Manager; Gwen McNeil, Health Services Manager; and Cindy Russ, Records Center Manager (supervisor) of the unit. Records Specialists are Pam Hardison, Sheila Perez, Brenda Cantrell, Tina Crawford, Rhonda Deese, Valdineia Castellon, Linda Scrivner, Diane Wise, and Sabrina Tucker (not pictured). OPS staff are Cristina Rafael and Rayna Dropp (not pictured).



*Front Row: Cristina Rafael, Linda Scrivner, Valdineia Castellon, Tina Crawford
Back Row: Diane Wise, Rhonda Deese, Brenda Cantrell, Sheila Perez, Pam Hardison, Cindy Russ*

The Corrections Unit assists funeral directors, hospital staff, Florida born registrants, and parents with minor corrections and amendments to birth and death records. Within the last year this unit amended a total of 14,303 records and updated 235,198 records, a phenomenal feat indeed!

Electronic Death Registration (EDR)

The EDR workgroup held its inaugural meeting in Jacksonville on August 9, 2007. Members included representatives from the Board of Funeral and Cemetery Services, Florida Cemetery Alliance, Florida Funeral Directors Association, Florida Morticians Association, Independent Funeral Directors of Florida, Florida Hospital Association, Florida Medical Examiners Commission, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Chief Deputy Registrar Advisory Committee, and the Office of Vital Statistics.

EDR, as developed thus far, was presented for the group to get a grasp of its scope and to allow discussion and input from the representatives. Are we on the right track, have we allowed for every contingency, is there something missing? There is still work to be done, but we feel we have come a long way towards an outstanding system.

Members were asked to discuss what they have learned with their constituents and bring any feedback to the next meeting. The workgroup will meet again via a conference call in late October or early November.

Completion Of Fetal Death Certificate

When filing a fetal death certificate in Florida there are three areas to be considered when gathering the information. As with the death certificate, the funeral director is the one meeting with the family, and the funeral director is charged with obtaining the

personal data from “...the best source available”. The physician or medical examiner is responsible for providing the medical certification of **cause of death**, and the funeral director is the one who works with the physician to get this information completed on the record. There is an informational flyer available to assist the physician in completing the cause of fetal death,

Instructions for Completing the Cause of Death Section of the Florida Fetal Death Certificate, DH 1976A, which can be obtained by contacting the chief deputy registrar.

The **medical and health information** on the back of the record seems to be an area where we have issues getting complete information. According to statute, s. 382.008 (2)(a), F.S., “the physician, midwife, or hospital administrator shall provide any medical or health information to the funeral director within 72 hours after expulsion or extraction.” So, what does this mean for the funeral director; how is that information obtained? It means the *funeral director* must complete all the information on the back of the fetal death record. The fetal death worksheet is a good mechanism by which the information can be gathered from the hospital or physician, who will, of course, utilize the mother’s medical records as their source. The funeral director does not need to question the mother or other family members regarding this information. The Fetal Death Certificate Worksheet, DH 1967A, can also be obtained from the chief deputy registrar.

Please take extra care when completing the fetal death record to be sure all information has been gathered and entered in the proper fashion.

CHIEF DEPUTY REGISTRAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CDRAC) UPDATE

On August 9, 2007 the EDR workgroup met in Jacksonville to discuss the new electronic death registration system that is presently being used in California (see article, page 2). Luz Perez, CDRAC Chair, is a member of this workgroup and attended the first meeting. Electronic, fax attestation for physicians was a big part of the discussion. The group was very enthusiastic and offered their cooperation in sharing their newfound knowledge with their colleagues. It will be a tremendous challenge for all counties in Florida, but we’re going down this road with EBR and it has been a success. If the process works in California, why not in Florida?

The state office also asked CDRAC members to review a proposed e-Vitals edit for DocTracking. The proposed edit will help reduce the possibility of human error by limiting the difference between Low and High numbers and prevent the Low number from being higher than the High number. CDRAC agreed this would be good to have in place.



The following appointments have been made to the position of registrar in the county health department:

Local Registrar:

Patrick Johnson	Flagler
Sylvia Byrd	Gadsden
Miranda Swanson	Indian River
Maribel Zayas	Miami-Dade
Robert Eadie	Monroe
Sandra Park	Santa Rosa

Chief Deputy Registrar

Wendy Simpson	Bradford
Deanna Parker	Indian River
Mary Ellen Enos	Marion

The revised Vital Records Registration Handbook & the Birth & Death editions of the handbook can be downloaded from the website at:
http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html

What's New In E-Vitals?

The wind blew in a welcome change for e-Vitals with the implementation of the new edit **enhancements to Docsequence**. What prompted these enhancements? An issue identified numerous Docsequence's created with random Low and High numbers, or with numbers transposed when entered. One Docsequence had a number separation in excess of ninety million—that's right, "Ninety Million!"

The *new* edit enhancements will:

Prevent errors when creating a new Docsequence or changing the Low and High numbers of an existing Docsequence

Prevent a range of Low and High numbers from exceeding 1000

Prevent the Low number from being higher than the High number

Prevent the Low number and High number from being changed in an existing Docsequence

Display an alert when a safety paper number has already been used in a previous Docsequence

With the *old* Docsequence you could freely change the Low and High number sequence to any range of numbers at any time, or enter any range of Low and High numbers, thereby possibly creating duplicate numbers in the system. In addition, you had to manually close out one Docsequence before opening another when the numbers were completed for that

Docsequence.

A great time saving enhancement implemented into the system is Docsequence's ability to automatically switch to the next Docsequence when more than one has been created. Several Docsequence's can now be created to cover several days. This new enhancement applies to Docsequence's *for birth only*.

The transition was a little bumpy at first but after a short period of time all of the counties were experts! Everyone should be proud of the essential part they played with this successful implementation!



The County Health Department phone list (with fees) is posted to the Internet at:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html

The list is updated quarterly & can be downloaded at any time. Be sure to verify with county should there be additional fees.

IN MEMORIAM

Wilson T. Sowder, M.D., a pioneer and national leader in the field of public health died February 16, 2007. Dr. Sowder led Florida as its State Health Officer for almost 30 years. Assigned by the Secretary of Navy to serve as Venereal Disease Control Officer at Pensacola, he also served in the same capacity later in Tampa and Jacksonville. He later became the Health Officer of Hillsborough County. Dr. Sowder was granted a leave of absence from his position with the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C. in 1945, and was appointed by Governor Millard Caldwell to become the State Health Officer of Florida at the age of 35 — one of the youngest in the United States.

During his tenure as State Health Officer, with the dedication of the many health workers throughout the state, Florida became a model in the field of public health. Dr. Sowder was proudest of helping to develop the statewide health system that established Florida's

county health departments. John Agwunobi, M.D., Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, formerly Florida's Secretary for the Department of Health, said this system links county health departments together and allows a degree of coordination not found in most states.

The old State Board of Health building in Jacksonville's Springfield area was scheduled for demolition, but Dr. Sowder was a key player in the efforts to restore the building and designate it as the Florida Museum of Medicine and Public Health. The building has been named for Dr. Sowder.

Dr. Sowder's spirit of public service continues to bless Florida's citizens and he will be missed.

Article abstracted from Florida Times Union, February 2007 & "Florida's Health Under Eleven Governors", 1999

BITS 'N PIECES

Take a look at the newly designed Vital Statistics web page — the navigational links in the left column will take you anywhere you need to go within our website.

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/planning_eval/vital_statistics/index.html

floridashealth.com

State of Florida Vital Records



The statistical tables, & past issues of the *Vital News*, are found on the department's website at the following address:

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Planning_eval/Vital_Statistics/VitalNews/vn-index.htm

