



Death Reporting in MDSS - Tip Sheet

Background

To accommodate the electronic report data that contains date of death information and to standardize death information across the system, the Date of Death field was created as a person-based variable with the release of Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) v7.1. The Patient Status and Date of Death fields are associated with the person and can be manually entered or will be automatically updated if a match is found in the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). These fields are distinct from the Case Disposition field. The Case Disposition field is a case-based variable so when marked as Died, it indicates that the case is deceased, AND that the death is associated with the specific case/condition being reported.

Location of Date of Death Field in the Case Record

The Date of Death field can be found in the Case Reporting tab under the Patient Information Section:

Patient Information				
Patient Status* : <input type="button" value="Alive"/>	Patient Status Date* (mm/dd/yyyy) : 04/13/2022 <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Case Disposition* : <input type="button" value="InPatient"/>		
First* : TEST	Last* : PERSON	Middle :		
Onset Date (mm/dd/yyyy) : <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	MMWR : 15-2022	Patient Id : 2117474		
Diagnosis Date (mm/dd/yyyy) : <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Date of Death (mm/dd/yyyy) : <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	<input type="button" value="Dedup"/>		

Case report forms also have the Date of Death field in the Investigation Information section. This field will auto-populate with the information from the Patient Information Section so that they match.

Investigation Information				
Investigation ID	Onset Date (mm/dd/yyyy) <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Diagnosis Date (mm/dd/yyyy) <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Referral Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Case Entry Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
Investigation Status <input type="button" value="Active"/>	Case Status <input type="radio"/> Confirmed <input type="radio"/> Confirmed - Non Resident <input type="radio"/> Not a Case <input type="radio"/> Probable <input type="radio"/> Suspect <input type="radio"/> Unknown <input type="radio"/> Non-Michigan Case			<input type="checkbox"/> State Prison Case
Patient Status <input type="button" value="Alive"/>	Patient Status Date (mm/dd/yyyy) <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Case Disposition <input type="button" value="InPatient"/>	Case Updated Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Case Completion Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
Date of Death (mm/dd/yyyy) <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>				
Investigator First Name:	Last Name:	Part of an outbreak? <input type="button" value="EDRS"/>	Outbreak Name	

Recording a Death Associated with the Reportable Condition

This process should only be followed if the case's death certificate indicates that their death is due to the Reportable Condition OR meets the death surveillance case definition. If a death is associated with this specific case, the Patient Status and Case Disposition fields should BOTH be marked as Died. To complete this process, follow the steps below:

1. Select a Patient Status of Died
2. Click Yes on the Patient Information pop-up to update the Case Disposition field to Died
3. Update the Date of Death field with the case's date of death as stated on the death certificate or reported date of death by the medical records (if available)

4. Click Submit to save your changes

The screenshot shows the 'Patient Information' form with the following fields and values:

- Patient Status*: **Died** (dropdown menu)
- Patient Status Date* (mm/dd/yyyy): 04/12/2022
- Case Disposition*: **Died** (dropdown menu)
- First*: TEST
- Last*: PERSON
- Middle: (empty)
- Onset Date (mm/dd/yyyy): (empty)
- MMWR: 15-2022
- Patient Id: 2117474
- Diagnosis Date (mm/dd/yyyy): (empty)
- Date of Death (mm/dd/yyyy): 04/12/2022
- Dedup: (button)

A confirmation dialog box titled 'Patient Information' is displayed below the form, containing the following text:

Setting Patient Status to Died will also update Case Disposition.
- To update Case Disposition, press Yes.
- Otherwise, press No.

The dialog box has two buttons: 'Yes' and 'No'. Red arrows indicate the flow: one arrow points from the 'Died' dropdown in the main form to the 'Yes' button in the dialog, and another arrow points from the 'No' button in the dialog to the 'Date of Death' field in the main form. A red box highlights the 'No' button, with a '2' next to it. A red box also highlights the 'Date of Death' field, with a '3' next to it.

Recording a Death **NOT** Associated with the Reportable Condition

This process should only be followed if the case's death certificate **DOES NOT** indicate that the case's death is due to the Reportable Condition OR **DOES NOT** meet the death surveillance case definition. If a death is **not** associated with this specific case, only the Patient Status field should be marked as Died. To complete this process, follow the steps below:

1. Select a Patient Status of Died
2. Click **No** on the Patient Information pop-up to retain the reported Case Disposition
3. Update the Date of Death field with the case's date of death as stated on the death certificate or reported date of death by the medical records (if available)
4. Click Submit to save your changes

The screenshot shows the 'Patient Information' form with the following fields and values:

- Patient Status*: **Died** (dropdown menu)
- Patient Status Date* (mm/dd/yyyy): 04/12/2022
- Case Disposition*: **InPatient** (dropdown menu)
- First*: TEST
- Last*: PERSON
- Middle: (empty)
- Onset Date (mm/dd/yyyy): (empty)
- MMWR: 15-2022
- Patient Id: 2117474
- Diagnosis Date (mm/dd/yyyy): (empty)
- Date of Death (mm/dd/yyyy): 04/12/2022
- Dedup: (button)

A confirmation dialog box titled 'Patient Information' is displayed below the form, containing the following text:

Setting Patient Status to Died will also update Case Disposition.
- To update Case Disposition, press Yes.
- Otherwise, press No.

The dialog box has two buttons: 'Yes' and 'No'. Red arrows indicate the flow: one arrow points from the 'Died' dropdown in the main form to the 'No' button in the dialog, and another arrow points from the 'No' button in the dialog to the 'Date of Death' field in the main form. A red box highlights the 'No' button, with a '2' next to it. A red box also highlights the 'Date of Death' field, with a '3' next to it.

Case Disposition Field Use

The Case Disposition field and any fields about death within the case report form (CRF) reflect the person's status in relation to that specific investigation. For instance, a person with outpatient treatment for a condition in 2015 who died in 2021 will show up in the 2015 case with a Case Disposition of Outpatient and a Patient Status of Died. A patient who died from a condition and meets the case definition for a death for that condition should be marked as Case Disposition of Died but have any questions on hospitalization noted in the CRF.

Recording Hospitalization Information

Any hospitalization information relevant to the case under investigation should be noted within the case report form under the Hospital Information section. If the patient has died due to the Reportable Condition OR meets the death surveillance case definition, Case Disposition should be marked as Died, regardless of hospitalization. If the patient's case includes a hospitalization, but the case has not died OR has died but the case's death certificate does not indicate that the case's death is due to the Reportable Condition / the case does not meet the death surveillance case definition, the Case Disposition field should be marked as Inpatient.

Questions

If you have any questions on how to report a death or hospitalization within MDSS, please contact the MDHHS subject matter expert or your [Regional Epidemiologist](#).