



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES

VITAL STATISTICS REGISTRATION

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www.nj.gov/health

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

HEATHER HOWARD
Commissioner

April 23, 2007

Dear New Jersey Medical Facility/Licensed Physicians:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration, has developed a revised strategy for deployment of the New Jersey Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). This plan includes three phases:

- Phase One – All New Jersey local Registrars of Vital Statistics, New Jersey licensed funeral directors and county Medical Examiners will be trained to use EDRS beginning in June and continuing through the fall of 2008. DHSS will provide training to registrars and ME facilities by December 31, 2008. The NJSFDA will handle funeral director training through the fall of 2008.
- Phase Two - Following the successful completion of the Phase One, DHSS will begin training licensed medical facilities across the state.
- Phase Three – Finally, DHSS will address training of physicians in private medical practices who may not be affiliated with major medical facilities.

During Phase One and Phase Two of this rollout, funeral directors may frequently find themselves dealing with physicians who are not yet trained to use EDRS and will be able to use an Interim Hybrid Fax option. The Interim Fax Hybrid option, which electronically joins a paper death certificate completed by the medical certifier with the electronic record prepared by the funeral director, will be explained in detail in the EDRS training.

County medical examiners across the state are already using this online system, some of whose many benefits are improving data quality for epidemiological tracking, and solving some of the logistical challenges of signing death certificates within 24 hours of death, as required by law.

Training and registration will be available to physicians, medical support staff and major medical facilities upon completion of Local Registrar training under Phase One. In the interim, physicians and their support staff dealing with the death of a patient can self-register as users on the EDRS website <https://edrs.nj.gov/edrs> by clicking the “[Register as a New User](#)” link and providing the necessary information. Online tutorials can help guide you through the straightforward data entry involved in using the online system.

Alternatively, during the early phases of the deployment, funeral directors can submit the paper death certificates signed by you using a “Fax Hybrid” system intended as an interim solution pending state-wide training of physicians.

DHSS welcomes the efforts of medical facilities that are interested in becoming early adopters of EDRS, particularly those in specialties dealing with terminally ill patients, and will entertain requests for fast-tracking training on a case by case basis.

Thank you for your cooperation and participation as we move forward together in the implementation of the nation’s first mandatory Electronic Death Registration System. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience at (609) 984-3445.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Komosinski
State Registrar
Bureau of Vital Statistics and Registration