

UC Davis Health – Vital Record Death Reporting (VRDR) Integration

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Project Summary:

In an effort to move the California State Death Registry reporting from a purely manual, time consuming paper process, the Vital Record Death Reporting (VRDR) project put a plan in place to move the death reporting to an integrated, electronic platform where the descendants information is sent electronically to the state registry through our Epic EHR by the reporting provider and the state responds immediately with the required electronic form to report the information necessary to certify a person has died.

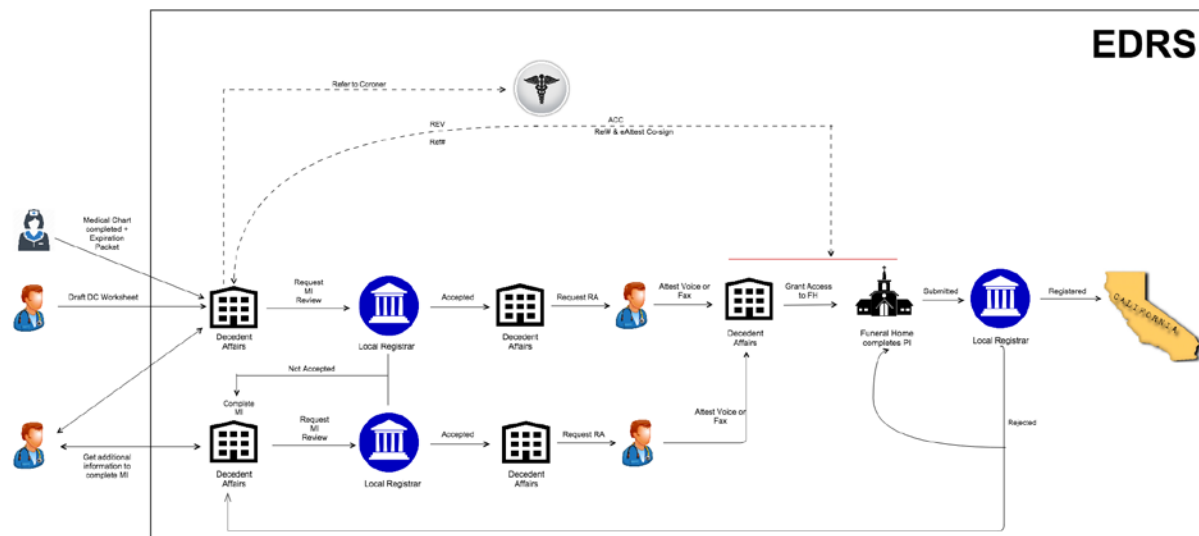
Working with the National Center for Health Statistics, California Department of Public Health, Epic and a number of internal departments over a 12 month period we were able to successfully pilot this integration for the state of California. This allows a provider to electronically submit the death record to the state with all the required information needed to certify death appropriately.

Project Narrative:

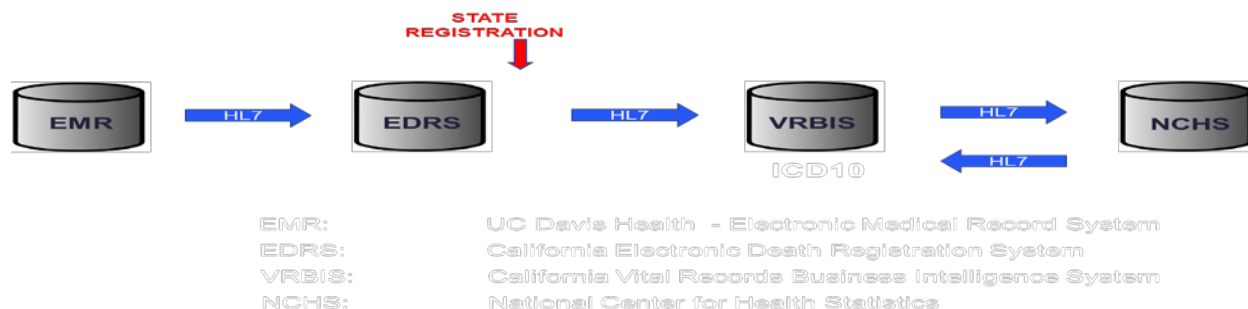
In the spring of 2017, UC Davis Health's Dr. Michael Hogarth made a proposal to the State of California's Department of Public Health related to UC Davis Health's integration capabilities and as the technical lead for the reporting of death statistics to the National Center for Health Statistics, believed that a partnership with the three organizations could successfully create an integrated transaction set that would certify death and eliminate timely manual and paper process.

Prior to this electronic submission process, the Decent Affairs group followed this workflow:

Current Decedent Affairs Workflow



After many months of development, coordination, meetings and technical build, the team was able to successfully deliver the capabilities based on the below messaging structure and flow:

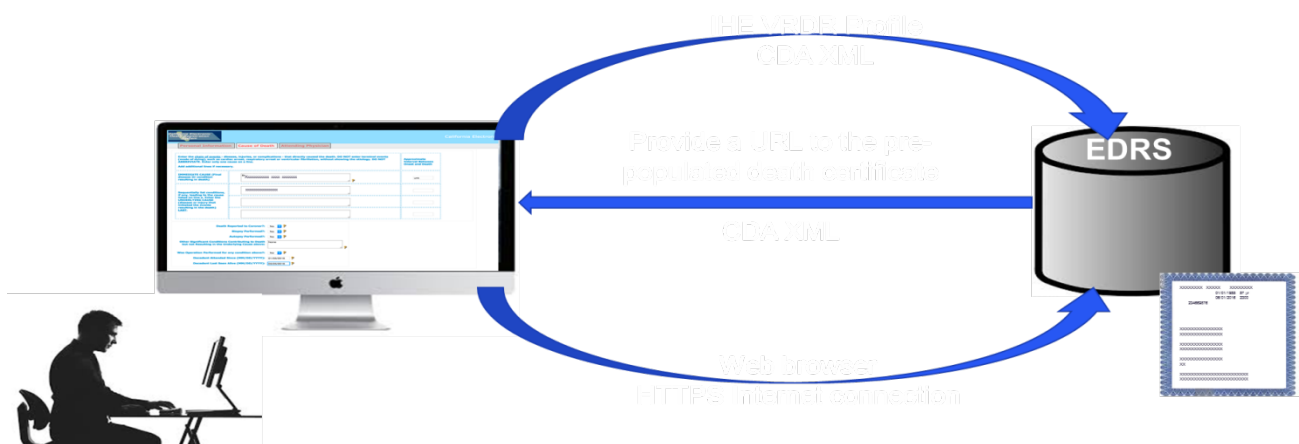


Vital Record Death Reporting Interface

- ▶ Type : HL7 v3 - XML Based Interface
- ▶ Method: Data Form Capture
- ▶ Gateway: Interconnect
- ▶ Content: CDA Document
 - Demographics
 - Procedures
 - Problems
 - Date / Time of Death

Interface is available for Epic 2015 with a SU

The closed loop for the transaction set created the following new workflow:



This new workflow has enabled the time to certify death from weeks, months or longer based on lost or misplaced paperwork, to being reported in the same day or so after a certified death.

As healthcare has moved into the realm of real time information exchange between organizations, the focus has been on Health Information Exchange related to the care of the patient and their current conditions, which is important. This project chose to focus on an important administrative function that not only incurs costs for the organization that are required to report to CPDH and NPHS, but also those organizations charged with handling a significant number of exclusively paper document. Moving these administrative functions to become real-time, electronic transactions, not only lessens the cost to the originating organization, but also the administrative costs bore by the state and federal organizations that are required by law to maintain this type of information.

In summary, this pilot proved that the capabilities exist and can be executed in such a way to accurately report death status to the federal authorities, while saving UC Davis Health, the state and federal government, and ultimately each and every taxpayer some amount of their tax dollars. Hopefully they will put those to good use.