

Updates to Death Specifications (Version 8/23/2002)

Additions:

Specifications for items: Linking information (birth certificate number, state of birth, year of birth), Void flag, Certificate Number, Auxiliary State file number, Source flag, Receipt date, and Father's surname.

Appendix G - Hispanic Origin Look-up Table

Appendix I - Race Codes

General modifications:

Alphabetic codes have been modified so that "unknown" is consistently represented by "U," and "not applicable" by "X."

Numeric codes have been modified so that "unknown" is represented by "9(s)," and "not applicable" codes by "8(s)."

Changes to geographic items:

The geographic items were modified and distributed earlier (version dated 4/3/02). The specifications for these items were corrected for differences in geographic coding between the birth and death specifications. U.S. States and Territories codes were changed from numeric to alpha (FIPS 6-4). This change is consistent with HISSB geographic coding standards and permitted Canadian Provinces (and Territories) to be treated as U.S. State equivalents for the purpose of coding residency. Notes were also added to geographic code appendices indicating that they will be superseded by the revised Part 8 (NCHS Geographic Coding Manual) upon its release later this year.

A minor change has been made to this current of the specification -- all references to ISO 3166 were removed and replaced with FIPS 10-4.

Medical file (only) items:

Instructions were added to additional items that outputs from the EDR can interface with NCHS mortality medical software (e.g., SuperMICAR) using input file record format from NCHS. Specific items do not need to be transmitted separately if the information has been fed through the automated software and the output files have been transmitted to NCHS.

Specific changes: (The updated information is in **bold**.)

Item 1, page 8. Notes on transmission changed to make NDI searches consistent with current practice:

Insert “Baby Boy” or “Baby Girl” as the first name for infants with a blank field for first name.

Alias flag values of 1-8 should be converted to 1 (alias). Alias flags of 0 and 9 should be converted to 0.

Item 14, pages 2-3. Added value 9 (Unknown) for records (probably only paper) submitted with no response.

Items 24&25, pages 4-5. Added value for unknown dates and time (probably only paper); added instruction for States to convert times of 2400 to 0000; and removed instruction to transmit this data to NCHS.

Items 29&30: Added values for unknown dates and time (probably only paper) and added instruction for States to convert times of 2400 to 0000.

On page 5: Changed range from 0000-2400 to **0000-2359**.

Items 33&34: Added values for unknown autopsy information (probably only paper) and expanded logic of valid values to include unknown values.

On page 3. If item 33 is Y, item 34 must be Y, N, or U.
If item 33 is U, item 34 must be U.

Items 37&45. For States with laws allowing unconventional types of people certify cause of death **ONLY**, we have added an additional category **Other Individual Legally Allowed to Certify**, an additional literal field for capturing the other types of individuals, and suggested a certification statement for these types.

Increase length of CERTL to 30 to be consistent with layout.

Items 38&39, page 6. Changed TOI transmission range from 0000-2400 to **0000-2359** and added instruction for States to convert time values of 2400 to 0000.

Item 40. Removed the coded values, the transmission variable with codes, and the associated Appendix since this will be done using automated software.

Item 43. Removed material on coding activity and the associated Appendix since this will be done using automated software.

Item 44. Changed values for TRANSP to be consistent with layout.

Item 54&55. Changed statement from data will not be transmitted to transmission is optional.

Appendix E. Place of injury. Deleted.

Appendix F. Detailed activities. Deleted.