MDI Connect Awardee Spotlight: Midwest Medical Examiner's Office

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office (MMEO) serves 36 of 87 counties in Minnesota (32% of the Minnesota's population). MMEO serves approximately 1.8 million residents. Autopsies are performed on site at MMEO. MMEO participates in the Medicolegal Death Investigation Connect (MDI Connect) which provides a supportive environment for selected MDI offices to innovate using standards-based approaches to improving data quality and timeliness that are scalable and reusable across multiple locations with different data entities.

The MDI office wants to automatically update the EDRS with information about cause and manner of death from their CMS.



Dataflow:	EDRS to MDI CMS
Project Description:	Midwest Medical Examiner's Office (MMEO) and their Office of Vital Records (OVR) are interested in data exchange from MMEO's electronic case management system (VertiQ) and the electronic death registration system used by OVR.
CMS Vendor:	VertiQ
Data Sharing Partner:	Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Vital Record (OVR)
Data Sharing Vendor:	In-House System

Benefits:	 Expedited filing of death certificates Ability to serve the families and communities with improved and faster processes Improved data quality Reduced staff time needed for data entry
Challenges:	 Different terminology being used by different partners Communicating effectively with partners

MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors, and FHIR subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others, and increase access to information for office functioning and research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation work jointly on this project.

Acronyms

MDI – Medicolegal Death Investigation
 CMS – Case Management System
 EDRS – Electronic Death Registration System
 HL7 – Health Level 7
 FHIR – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

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