



HL7 Version 3 Domain Analysis Model:
Vital Records, Release 1
**Section 5 – US Standard Certificate of Death
and Supporting Reference Material**

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Supplemental Material for HL7 Informative Document

Sponsored by:
Public Health/Emergency Response Work Group

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Section 5: U.S. Standard Certificate of Death and Supporting Reference Material

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics (CDC/NCHS) has developed sets of detailed specifications for collecting and reporting the items on the death certificate. This section of the Vital Records Domain Analysis Model includes references to information about the United States (U.S.) Standard Certificate of Death and supporting reference documentation. The U.S. Standard Certificate of Death and the Death Edit Specifications for the 2003 Revision are included in this section. It is critical that all U.S. vital registration areas follow these standards to promote uniformity in data collection across registration areas.

Additionally, CDC/NCHS provides access to handbooks that contain instructions for physicians, medical examiners, coroners and funeral directors to complete and file records of death and fetal death. The handbooks are intended to serve as a model that can be adapted by any vital statistics registration area. The handbooks include instructions that pertain to the 2003 revisions of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death and the U.S. Standard Report of Fetal Death. The handbook have also been included in this section to provide context for understanding the Vital Records Domain Analysis Models.

Section 5 includes the following documents:

- 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death
- Death Edit Specifications for the 2003 Revision of the U.S. Standard Certificate of Death
- Handbooks for Death Certificate
 - Physician's Handbook on Medical Certification of Death
 - Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting
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