

Dear Physicians and Medical Office Staff,

The Santa Cruz County Office of Vital Records has implemented the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS). EDRS simplifies things for the physician certifying the causes of death. Under EDRS, instead of signing the actual death certificate, the physician certifies the causes of death and other medical information by Remote Attestation – either Fax Attestation or Voice Attestation.

Fax Attestation (preferred method):

For EDRS Fax Attestation, a funeral director or the hospital Office of Decedent Affairs will initiate a death certificate and **fax a *working copy*** to you (under a cover sheet with instructions) for your signature. To certify the causes of death and other medical information, you will sign with your usual signature in Field 115 on the faxed attestation copy. Then, you or a member of your staff will **fax** the Attestation copy (but NOT the cover sheet) back to the toll-free EDRS fax number shown on the instruction sheet. That's all there is to it! The computer will check for the presence of a signature in Field 115, and if it finds one, it will then update the status of the death record in EDRS to "signed." The EDRS computer will retain the faxed image of the attestation copy with your signature (see attachment).

Voice Attestation:

For EDRS Voice Attestation, a funeral director or the hospital Office of Decedent Affairs will initiate a death certificate and **fax a *working copy*** to you (under a cover sheet with instructions) for your **verbal** certification. To certify the causes of death and other medical information, you will call the toll-free EDRS number indicated on the instruction sheet, and follow the prompts provided by the interactive voice response system. You will need to have the instruction sheet and the attestation copy in front of you when you call. Once you have completed the call, the system will inform you whether or not it was successfully attested by voice, and update the status of the death record in EDRS to "signed." The EDRS computer will retain an electronic record of your verbal attestation.

A word of caution:

*If the attestation copy faxed to you is incorrect and requires a change, you or your staff must contact the funeral director or decedent affairs office immediately. **Do NOT modify the attestation copy. Do NOT sign an incorrect attestation copy. Do NOT sign if your name does not appear as the recipient identified on the cover sheet. Do NOT sign if your name does not appear as the attending physician in Field 118.** A Funeral Director or your Office of Decedent Affairs will make the changes that you request, and the system will re-fax you the corrected copy with new attestation numbers.*

The timeline for filing the attestation is still fifteen (15) hours from time of death or time found.

For more information on the EDRS Remote Attestation guidelines, please visit <http://www.edrs.us/edrs/attestation.jsp>

We believe this new system will make your role in the death registration process much easier. You can perform EDRS Remote Attestation anywhere that you can send and receive a fax!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (831) 763-8430.