August 27, 2019

The Department of Health has some exciting news! The Vital Statistics Services (VSS) and the Wyoming Frontier Information Initiative (WyFi) are looking to partner with Wyoming hospitals and other facilities to develop a Health Level Seven International (HL7) compliant application and process to allow registration facilities the ability to electronically export registrant birth and death data directly from health information systems to the VSS system for registration (Vital Records).

Currently, an application has been developed, tested and is working for death data using the State’s Health Information Exchange (HIE) to transport decedent data from the facility electronic health record (EHR) to the VSS electronic death registration system (EDRS), and the results have demonstrated improved timeliness in filing, streamlined medical certification (medical certification is passed from the EHR to VSS without the medical certifier having to log into the VSS EDRS to complete) and more accurate cause of death data.

These are a few of the benefits to consider:

* Streamlined birth and death registration process;
* Increased accuracy and decreased time and effort to provide information to Vital Statistics Services;
* Reduced number of employees entering data for birth and death registration;
* Health Care Practitioners (Physicians, PAs and APRNs) signatures may be sent electronically for certification;
* Health Care Practitioners may no longer need to log into VSS to certify medical information on certificates;
* Reduced time for birth and death records to become available; and,
* Saves time and money due to increased efficiency.

For partnering purposes, the minimum system requirement, is the HL7 interface, version 2.6 or higher. The anticipated cost to the hospital is relatively low and will vary based on current IT capabilities; e.g., current version of EHR, staff experience, etc., approximately 20-40 hours for development and another 40 hours for testing and training. The overall cost is negligible compared to the time and resources saved with staff and practitioners not having to use multiple systems to record the same vital record data.

This initiative will only happen with facility assistance. Let the Vital Statistics Services staff know if you are interested in being a part of this undertaking or if you have any questions regarding the project.

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