

**PROVINCIAL STANDARD
RELATED TO REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACTING OF STILLBIRTHS**

Approved by the
Provincial Health Information Management Leadership Committee
April 20, 2012
Revised December 5, 2014

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Background

It has been mandatory to submit stillbirth abstracts to the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) since April 1, 1995 as per direction from the Department of Health at that time.

In 2011, CIHI identified inconsistency between the stillbirth definition applied in the DAD and the classification of a stillbirth in ICD-10-CA. The previous DAD manual allowed for submission of a stillbirth abstract in the circumstances of a missed abortion (i.e. fetal death occurring before 20 weeks gestation) and in the circumstances of a termination of pregnancy before 20 weeks. For classification purposes in ICD-10-CA, a stillbirth is defined as any intrauterine fetal demise or termination of pregnancy occurring at or after 20 completed weeks of gestation in which the fetus shows no sign of life.

To align with the ICD-10-CA classification definition, the 2012-2013 DAD manual criteria for creating a stillbirth abstract was updated to read “any uterine fetal demise or termination of pregnancy occurring **at or after 20 completed weeks** of gestation in which the fetus shows no signs of life”.

As of 2012-2013, it became optional to submit stillbirth abstracts to the DAD but Newfoundland and Labrador continued to submit this information as a mandatory requirement upon the request of Perinatal Program NL (PPNL). PPNL does not have a complete provincial database at this time and is using the DAD data (as well as additional fields not submitted to DAD) contained in the stillbirth abstracts on a provincial level for perinatal and maternal reviews.

Since that time, PPNL has requested data be collected and submitted to the DAD based on the definition of a stillbirth in the Vital Statistics Act 2009 of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) which is:

“the complete expulsion or extraction of a fetus of at least 500 grams in weight or at least 20 weeks gestation in which, after the expulsion or extraction, there is no breathing, beating of the heart, pulsation of umbilical cord or unmistakable movement of voluntary muscles”.

In addition to abstracting inconsistencies, registration practices for stillbirths vary across the regional health authorities (RHAs). This has implications for local and provincial information systems such as the EHR.

These issues were considered as part of the two year review cycle of this standard and changes approved.

Purpose

In an effort to standardize the collection of data related to stillbirths in NL, this standard has been revised to include direction for abstracting, RHA registration, Vital Statistics registration and PPNL data collection.

Abstracting Requirements

- Stillbirth cases that meet the definition of a stillbirth according to the Vital Statistics Act 2009 must be abstracted and submitted to the DAD (mandatory requirement). This will be noted as a provincial variation to Section 3, Stillborn Abstracting in future DAD manuals.
- HIM coders will create an abstract when a Registration of Stillbirth form is attached to the mother's chart.
- HIM coders are referred to the Stillborn Abstracting section of the DAD manual for general information and recording requirements for a stillborn abstract.

Registration Practices related to Stillbirths

- Stillbirths should not be registered in the ADT module of Meditech. An account under the mother's name in Lab census should be used when available for all lab related work; the paper record should be placed in the mother's chart.
- For radiology follow up, RHAs should use the mother's account (e.g. PACS, X-rays). If paper chart diagnostic imaging records and reports exist, these should be placed in the mother's chart.
- As stillbirths are not registered in the Meditech system, an abstract will not be triggered in the 3M Coding System and must be created through a manual process.

Registration of Stillbirth for Vital Statistics Purposes

- Stillbirth cases that meet the definition of a stillbirth according to the Vital Statistics Act 2009 must be reported to the Vital Statistics Division of Service NL via the Registration of Stillbirth form.
- A copy of the form is retained on the health record of the mother.
- RHA staff are referred to Vital Statistics for general information and recording requirements for a registration of a stillbirth.

Perinatal Program Newfoundland and Labrador (PPNL) Data Collection Requirements

- Additional data elements are collected within the 3M System upon the request of PPNL to augment the information collected on the DAD abstract related to stillbirths.
- Coders are referred to PPNL documentation for general information and specific recording requirements related to this additional data collection and reporting process.

Questions regarding this standard can be directed to:

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