

The Role of Health Institutions in Collecting Cause of Death Information

Mehmet Günal
Turkish Statistical Institute



Content

- Legislative issues
- Historical background
- Death Notification System (DNS)
- Coding
- Conclusions



Legislative Issues

- Laws gives the main responsibility to the health institutions for the identification of death events
- For suspicious case, responsibility is shared by prosecuters and judicial physicians

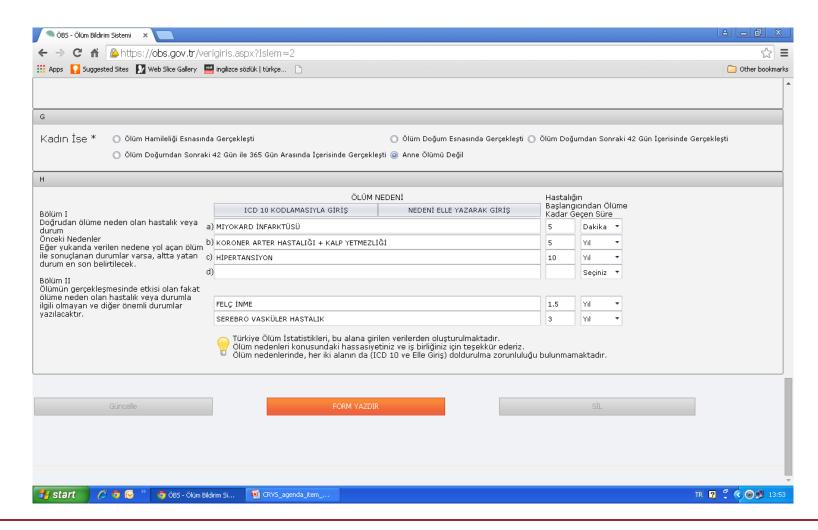


Historical Background

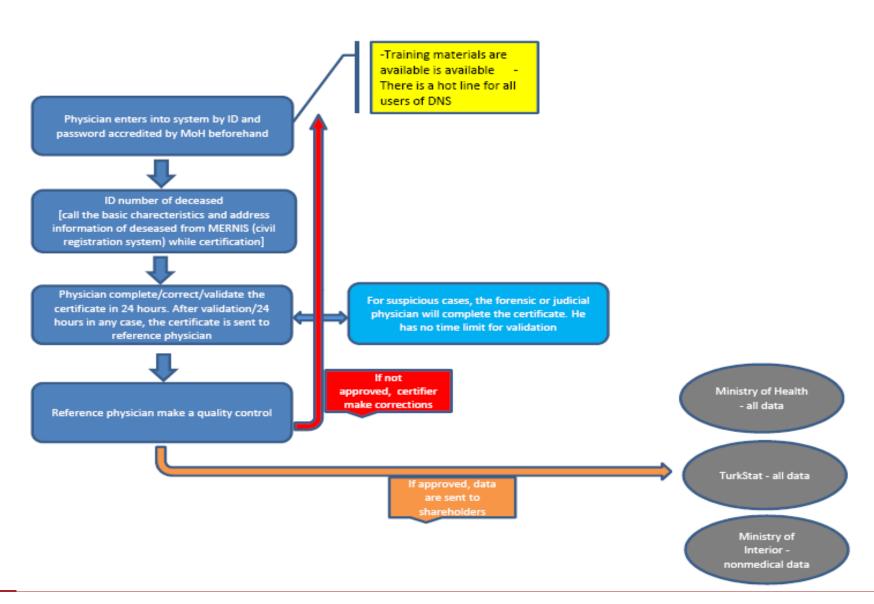
- Between 2009-2012:
 - International death certificate
 - ICD 10
 - Paper based (burial lisence and statistical purpose)
- Since 2013:
 - International death certificate
 - ICD 10
 - Electronic death certificate (DNS) (burial lisence, statistical purpose, civil register, licences for the transportation of deceased person)



Death Notification System









Coding

- Diagnosis coding is done at regional level in each of the 26 regions of Turkey. There are between 2 and 10 coders in each region according to its size.
- At central level, 4 coders are in charge of quality control and training.
- All coders use a specific data entry program to access the MoH database fed with DNS to code causes of death and enter the underlying cause of death.



Conclusions

- Role of MoH and health institutions is critical in the level of certification and coverage in terms of quality
 - Only the diagnoses made by physicians are accepted because of medical part
 - The efforts made by MoH such as duty physician and family physician systems are useful for the coverage improvement
 - Trainings on certification are necessary for quality improvement
 - Since 2013 with the enforcement of DNS by MoH, there has been a visible improvement in coverage and timeliness in the dissemination of results
- Role of NSO (TurkStat) is critical in the level of coding
 - Easy interaction between regional coders and central coders
 - Reminder trainings at least once a year