

Causes of death registry in Norway

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The Norwegian Cause of Death Registry

- Death certificate and legal framework
- History
- Data in
- Data in house
 - Coding
 - Additional information
 - Queries
 - Automatic and manual quality controls
- Presentation of our system



Death certificate and legal framework

- All doctors are obliged to issue a death certificate concerning deaths they have been professionally involved with.
(The health personnel act and The regulation concerning the cause of death registry)
- Forwards within two months the certificate to the Cause of Death Registry
(The regulation concerning the cause of death registry)
- The NCoDR is governed (mainly) by:
 - The health register act
 - The regulation concerning the cause of death registry
 - The health research act



History of the NCoDR

- 1925: Cause of Death Registry at Statistics Norway
- 1951: ICD
 - Digitalised data back to 1951, >2 million records
- 1996: ICD-10
- 2005: ACME (automated classification of medical entities)
- 2011: IRIS
- 2018: Starting implementation of an electronic death certificate



Incoming documents

- Death certificates from the municipal medical officers, hospital and other institution
- Autopsy reports (forensic and non-forensic) from the laboratories paper
- QC query responses
- All on paper until 2018 when Norway started implementation of an electronic death certificate



Coding

- DAR: NIPH-developed program for handling of records and interaction with IRIS
- IRIS: (Semi)automatic system for coding multiple causes of death and selecting the underlying cause of death
 - Compliant with the ICD-10 rules
 - www.dimdi.de/static/en/klassi/irisinstitute/index.htm



IRIS

International coding system for cause of death

- To improve international comparability
- Automatic assignment of ICD-10 codes to the terms in the diagnoses
 - About 70 % match
- Automatic selection of the underlying cause of death according to the ICD-10 rules.
- Automatic selection works in for almost all cases
 - Cannot be used for external causes, for children < 1 year or when there are more than one incoming document



Additional information

- Autopsies (forensic and non-forensic)
 - About 3200/year (8%)
- Medical Birth Registry of Norway
 - Children < 1 year
 - About 150/year
- Norwegian Cancer Registry
 - A subset of cancer deaths



Queries

- Letters to the certifying doctor/institution if the information on the certificate is insufficient
- Priority for younger people
- Recent years around 700-1000 letters /year
- In 2021 we have sent over 2000
 - About 80% response rate



Automatic consistency and manual control

- IRIS has in-built controls for consistency between age, sex and diagnosis
 - «(Woman) AND (prostate cancer)»
 - «(Not infant) AND (SIDS)»
 - ...
- Discussion with medical officer in problem cases
- End-of-year controls
 - Trends
 - Rare diagnoses



Presentation

- The electronic death certificate
 - NIPHS datasystem

