



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Bureau of Health Information, Statistics, Research & Evaluation
Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
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To: Vitals Information Partnership Users and Partners

From: Antonio Sousa, MHA *ACS*
Registrar, Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

Re: **VIP EDRS Software Implementation Schedule Change**
Circular Letter 2014-09

Date: July 21, 2014

The Registry was recently informed that the death module encountered issues during performance testing. Registry staff members have been working closely with EHS technical resources to identify root causes and implement corrective actions. The Registry is confident that this issue will be rectified shortly; however, as communicated throughout our roundtable and outreach sessions, deployment of the death module would not occur until thorough and comprehensive performance testing was conducted and the death module received a pass rating. At this time, deployment of the death module has been rescheduled to September 1, 2014 to provide ample time for performance testing of the application.

Given this extended release, the Registry strongly encourages that all stakeholders actively participate in the numerous educational sessions that will be offered throughout the months of August & September. These offerings include:

- Webinar recordings on individual phases of the death module process (i.e., medical certifier, funeral home, burial agent, clerk).
- Webinar recording of the complete death module process (beginning to end)
- Webinars will be available on the VIP web page by August 1. Webinars can be viewed at any time. Links to the recorded webinars will be posted on the VIP Updates webpage (www.mass.gov/dph/vip), distributed through various professional organization distribution lists, and through our listserv emails. The links will direct you to a self-registration page, but the webinars will be available for you to view immediately upon registration.
 - Stakeholders who watch a webinar and have questions should contact the VIP Help Desk at vip@state.ma.us. Please note "Webinar Questions" in the subject line.
- A daily roundtable session will be offered at the Registry in the large conference room. Up to 40 individuals could be accommodated in one seating. Pre-registration is not required.

- Sessions would occur on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (10a to 12p); Tuesday (1p – 3p); and Thursday (3p – 5p). Please visit our web page (www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs) for directions to the Registry.

As previously communicated, the Registry will allow for a 30 day grace period (September 1 – September 30) where paper death certificates will be received and processed. As of October 1, paper certificates will no longer be accepted by the Registry. Paper certificates will only be allowed in extreme circumstances where the Registry has granted approval for submission of a paper record. Please note that, as of October 1, a paper record shall be defined as the pre-fillable pdf forms that have been provided by the Registry. Under no circumstances will the old paper death certificate records be accepted or processed.

Please direct all questions to vip@state.ma.us. Thank you.