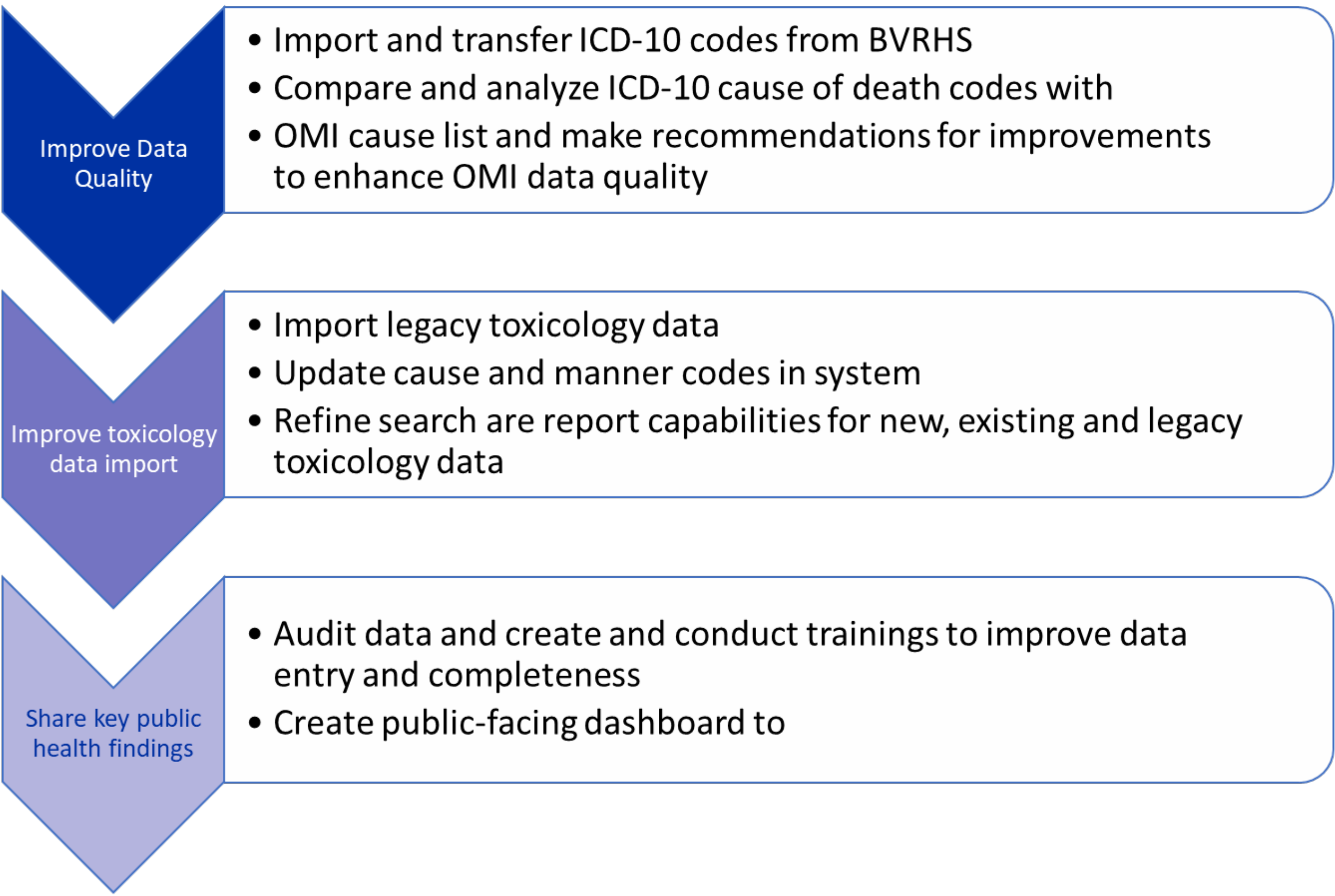


MDI Connect Awardee Spotlight: New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator

About the Awardee: As the centralized, statewide medical examiner agency for New Mexico, the Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) serves a population of two million people in the fifth-largest state in the U.S. Based in Albuquerque and part of the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, OMI’s board-certified forensic pathologists conduct approximately 2,000 autopsies per year and have an investigative role in over 10,000 deaths annually. OMI has maintained an electronic database of its medicolegal death investigation (MDI) data since the 1970s, long recognizing the significance of these data in identifying trends, assessing interventions, and informing public health policy. New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) participates in the Medicolegal Death Investigation Connect (MDI Connect) which provides a supportive environment for selected MDI offices to innovate using standards-based approaches to improving data quality and timeliness that are scalable and reusable across multiple locations with different data entities.

Description of Project: This project has three main objectives and strategies: 1) To improve data quality, OMI will customize its electronic case management system by receiving ICD-10 codes from the state’s Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics; 2) To improve interoperability between the toxicology data import and OMI, legacy toxicology lab data will be added to the case management system and a custom report will be added; and 3) To support data utilization and documentation of key public health findings to address new health threats, OMI will create an interactive public-facing data dashboard. By the end of two years, OMI plans to have a searchable toxicology database that receives ICD-10 codes, flags public health attributes and provides cleaner data. CMS enhancements and improved data quality will help OMI and its partners in their efforts to understand and decrease drug overdose fatalities.



About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors, and FHIR subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts in exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation work jointly on this project.

Acronyms
MDI – Medicolegal Death Investigation
CMS – Case Management System
HL7 – Health Level 7
FHIR – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

*This **Medicolegal Death Investigation Novel Data Modernization Initiative** is 100 percent funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and is part of **MDI Connect**, a medicolegal death investigation FHIR implementation collaborative supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*