

MDI FIC Awardee Spotlight:

DeKalb County Georgia Medical Examiner's Office FHIR Interoperability Use Case

Medicolegal Death Investigation Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) Implementation Collaborative (MDI FIC):

The MDI FIC 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 exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning. This project is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) overall data modernization initiative ([COMEC - Modernizing Medical Examiner and Coroner Data Systems \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/comec/modernizing-medical-examiner-and-coroner-data-systems)). The funding for MDI offices to participate in the MDI FIC was provided through a cooperative agreement between CDC and CDC Foundation.

DeKalb County Medical Examiner's Office:

- Georgia has a county-based mixture of coroner and medical examiners.
- Autopsies are performed onsite.
- DeKalb County Medical Examiner's Office serves a population of approximately 758,000 residents, which is roughly 7% of the state population.

Contacts:

- DeKalb County Medical Examiner's Office (<https://www.dekalbcountyga.gov/medical-examiner/medical-examiners-office>)
- CDC Collaborating Office for Medical Examiner's and Coroners (COMEC) (MDI@cdc.gov)
- CDC Foundation (mdi_datasystems@cdcfoundation.org)

Description of Use Case:

The goal of this project is to facilitate the exchange of real-time comprehensive mortality toxicology data to allow Georgia Department of Public Health (Georgia DPH), surveillance programs such as Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (Ga-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) to receive toxicology data utilizing the FHIR standard.

Name of Case Management System (CMS)

Vendor: MDI-Log

Brief Description of CMS Vendor

Tasks/Activities: MDI-Log will build and test the architecture for a FHIR based API to share toxicology data between MDI-Log and state public health surveillance programs.

Name of Data Sharing Partner: Georgia Department of Public Health (Georgia DPH) surveillance programs such as Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (Ga-VDRS) and State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Brief Description of Data Sharing Partner

Tasks/Activities: Ga-VDRS/SUDORS will use grant funds to develop the receiving end of the API using MDI-Log's API documentation. The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) is not currently FHIR capable, but Georgia DPH has committed to engaging NVDRS's API developers and NVDRS will work to develop the FHIR NVDRS interface.

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