

MDI FIC Awardee Spotlight:

Cook County Illinois 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 \(cdc.gov\)](#)). The funding for MDI offices to participate in the MDI FIC was provided through a cooperative agreement between CDC and CDC Foundation.

Cook County Medical Examiner's Office:

- Illinois has a mixture of coroner and medical examiners.
- Autopsies are performed onsite (approximately 60% of the cases).
- CCMEO serves a population of approximately 5.3 million residents, which is roughly 45% of the state's population.

Contacts:

- Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/agency/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 the proposed project is to enhance current data sharing with the outsource toxicology laboratory, NMS Labs, using FHIR. This will allow the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office (CCMEO) to acquire additional toxicology testing data not currently submitted that would help identify drug use data, rather than merely drug death data, pertaining to the decedents examined at the CCMEO.

Name of Case Management System (CMS) Vendor: Lablynx

Brief Description of CMS Vendor

Tasks/Activities: Lablynx will work with the CCMEO to implement upgrades to the current digital case management system via FHIR that will be required to incorporate additional toxicology testing data into the respective digital case files.

Name of Data Sharing Partner: NMS Labs

Brief Description of Data Sharing Partner

Tasks/Activities: NMS Labs will provide additional toxicology testing data not currently reported to the CCMEO. This information will enable further insight into all drugs taken by decedents which will, in turn, help with statistical drug data analysis of the local community on a broader scope.

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