

 <p>STATE OF INDIANA CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION</p>	Class Title: Nosologist		Class Code: 002KF5
	FLSA Status: Non-Exempt	Salary Schedule: PAT 5	Effective Date: 12-12-14
	Summary: Incumbent works at the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and is responsible for the uniform classification and reporting of the causes of deaths occurring in Indiana.		

Duties:

- Determines primary, secondary and underlying causes of death based upon death certificates;
- Classifies cause of death based upon the uniform coding system of the International Classification of Diseases;
- Queries certifying physicians as to immediate cause of death and sequence of conditions giving rise to cause in order to ascertain and classify underlying cause of death;
- Provides consultation to local health departments, research studies and other agencies regarding nosological questions;
- Maintains special statistics and records for the Traffic Accident Information System in cooperation with the Indiana State Police;
- Compiles statistics and prepares special reports for programs such as work-related accidents, communicable diseases, farm accidents, etc.;
- Reconciles coding differences with sample reports from National Center for Health Statistics;
- Follows up on and resolves death certificates in pending status;
- Consults with staff from National Center for Health Statistics to ensure uniform coding of specific causes of death;
- Performs related duties as required.

Job Requirements:

- Advanced knowledge of the methods and procedures of classifying cause of death according to the International Classification of Diseases;
- Working knowledge of the theory and practice of medical certification of cause of death;
- Working knowledge of medical terminology, the interrelationships of various morbid conditions and current or changing trends in morbidity cases;
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with physicians regarding cause of death certifications;
- Ability to attend periodic workshops and to initiate communications in order to remain up-to-date with classification system and to interpret and explain system to other health agency personnel;
- Ability to understand and utilize statistics and print-outs maintained through data processing systems.

Difficulty of Work:

Work involves the determination of cause of death classification codes for individual morbidity cases based upon guidelines and instructions from the National Center for Health Statistics. Guidelines are lengthy, complex and periodically amended. Individual cases frequently involve the assessment of many variables sequentially leading to death and the determination of coding or querying based on facts of each situation.

Responsibility:

Incumbent works with high degree of independence for the Director of Public Health Statistics. Questions or problems regarding coding are directed to National Center for Health Statistics at incumbent's discretion. Computerized sample reports as well as the programmed system serve as an automatic review of technical adequacy of work. Incumbent serves as final authority within agency regarding cause of death coding. The nosologist makes all decisions concerning cause of death coding for the State of Indiana.

Personal Work Relationships:

Incumbent has extensive contact with physicians, health agency personnel and national statistics and research organizations. Contacts are for the purpose of collecting or disseminating information or data.