

CAVEAT ON USE OF DATA ITEM

Data Item: **PLACE OF DEATH**

Date Updated: 28 May 2015

PLACE OF DEATH GROUPINGS AND APPROVALS

The NSW Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages have approved the release of the following groupings for place of death:

- Died at Home
- Died in a Hospice
- Died in a Private Hospital
- Died in a Public Hospital
- Died in a Nursing Home
- Unknown Place of Death

After analysis of the existing procedures and practices for updating place of death by the NSW Cancer Registry (NSW CR), it has been determined that the Cancer Institute NSW can release the groupings listed above, for persons meeting the following criteria:

- had a cancer case diagnosed in NSW
- died of cancer
- died in NSW

Any persons meeting the following criteria will be excluded from the Place of Death Groupings if they:

- have died of causes other than cancer
- have died outside of NSW

For persons that have died outside of NSW or of causes other than cancer, an "NA" code will be assigned for Place of Death Group. The NSW CR does not actively seek out or follow up on the place of death for persons that die outside of NSW (interstate or overseas). Similarly, if a person dies of causes other than cancer, the NSW CR is not usually notified by an institution of their death. Often these persons are identified by matching to the National Death Index and allocated a Place of Death code to indicate this. Place of death is not then subsequently followed up.

PLACE OF DEATH RECORDED IN THE NSW CR

Place of Death is identified and updated as the institution providing a death notification or it is manually updated from RBDM death certificates during annual death data processing.

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING GROUPINGS

Died at Home:

This category includes persons that have died at home in their usual place of residence. However, this category may also include persons that have died in places other than their usual place of residence, but have not died in a notifying institution such as a nursing home or hospital. This may include persons for e.g. dying by a river, in a shopping centre, in a park etc.

Died in a Hospice:

A hospice is a facility that provides specialist care known as palliative care for people who are near the end of life and for their families. Palliative care can be provided in a hospice or other freestanding facility, at home or within a hospital. In NSW, there are only three existing freestanding hospices and one historical freestanding hospice that are included in this grouping. Any other palliative care is administered at home or within hospitals. Notifications for patients that have died in hospital palliative care wards will be included with the hospital notifications and those that have died whilst receiving palliative care at home will be included in the died at home grouping.

Died in a Nursing Home:

There are two types of residential aged care facilities: low care and high care. Traditionally low care facilities were known as hostels and high care facilities were known as nursing homes. This category contains those persons that have died from cancer in a high level care facility, nursing home or high level care units within complexes/villages.

Unknown Place of Death:

In circumstances where we have not been able to successfully follow up on the place of death, these persons will be grouped together as unknown place of death.

PRIVACY

If a Place of Death Group contains less than five persons for a particular data request, we will reassign their Place of Death Group as "NA", so as to protect an individual's anonymity.