



Date: October 14, 2022

DMS Operations Memo 22-22

To: Income Maintenance Supervisors
Income Maintenance Lead Workers
Income Maintenance Staff

Affected Programs:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BadgerCare Plus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caretaker Supplement |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FoodShare | <input type="checkbox"/> FoodShare Employment and Training |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medicaid | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SeniorCare | |

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Date of Death Verification Through State Vital Records

CROSS-REFERENCE

- [Operations Memo 18-15](#)
- [FoodShare Wisconsin Policy Handbook, Section 1.2.3.9 SSA Death Match](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Handbook, Section 9.4.1 Date of Death Matches](#)
- [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, Section 20.7.3 Date of Death Matches](#)

EFFECTIVE DATE

October 14, 2022

PURPOSE

This memo announces a new data exchange between CARES Worker Web (CWW) and the Wisconsin Vital Records Office that will be used to identify when an applicant, member, or community spouse has passed away, and to verify the date of death (DOD). No refutation period will be required when the DOD source is the Wisconsin Vital Records Office.

BACKGROUND

CWW was updated in 2018 to end eligibility automatically after receiving a death record from the Social Security Administration (SSA). To comply with federal requirements, a 10-day refutation period was

implemented for FoodShare, health care, and Caretaker Supplement to confirm that the reported death was accurate before ending eligibility.

To allow DHS to take action even more promptly when an applicant or member has died, DHS has established a direct data exchange between CWW and the Wisconsin Vital Records Office.

POLICY

Effective October 29, 2022, a real-time data exchange with the Wisconsin Vital Records Office (in addition to the existing SSA data exchanges) will be implemented to identify DOD information for applicants and members.

DOD information from Vital Records is identified through either:

- A definitive match where the Social Security number (SSN) and other demographic information are the same.
- A potential match where the SSN is the same, but the other demographic information is different.

When DOD information received from Vital Records directly matches an applicant's or member's SSN and other demographic information, it is considered verified, and a notice of decision is sent to the household.

When DOD information received from Vital Records does not directly match an applicant's or member's SSN and other demographic information, another source, such as information from the household or other data exchange information, must be used before the DOD is considered verified.

If the SSA data exchange returns a DOD but Vital Records does not, the 10-day refutation period will continue to be initiated for FoodShare, BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and Caretaker Supplement as described in [Operations Memo 18-15 Changes to Date of Death Procedures](#).

CONTACTS

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DHS/DMS/BEOT/
DHS/DMS/BEEP/EB