

Changes to how contributory factors are recorded in eCDOP/NCMD portal

NCMD is deploying some changes relating to contributory factors into both eCDOP and the NCMD portal. QES will be releasing these changes on 14th October 2022. This document explains the changes that will be made.

Why are changes being made?

We are introducing some changes to the way contributory factors are recorded in the analysis form in both eCDOP and the NCMD portal. This is to overcome challenges in data quality, reduce free text, and help to improve consistency in the information recorded under each domain across all CDOPs. These changes are necessary to help data analysis both locally and nationally, and to ensure that data on factors contributing to child deaths can be reliably analysed and reported, both at a CDOP level and at a national level. For example, these changes will make it easier to analyse the number of deaths where CDOP recorded “high maternal BMI” as a contributory factor.

What changes are being made?

NCMD has analysed over 10,000 contributory factors that have already been recorded by CDOPs and have developed a list of pre-defined factor groups and subgroups based on the most common factors recorded. These have been grouped into two dropdowns under each domain.

For each factor recorded on the analysis form, a factor group and factor subgroup will need to be selected at the CDR/CDOP meeting. These groups will be different for each domain. There will still be the option to add free text to ensure detail can still be provided where necessary. A [guidance document](#) will be available to assist with data entry and reviews.

The screenshot shows the 'C. Analysis Form' tab for 'Domain A: Factors intrinsic to the child'. Below the domain name is a instruction: 'Please list factors in the child (and in neonatal deaths, in the pregnancy). Consider factors relating to the child's age, gender and ethnicity; any pre-existing medical conditions, developmental or behavioural issues or disability, and for neonatal deaths, the mother's health and wellbeing.' The form contains a table with columns: Group, Subgroup, Details, Relevance, Primary Factor, and Modifiable?. The 'Group' dropdown is set to 'Risk factors in mother d' and the 'Subgroup' dropdown is set to 'Smoking in pregnancy'. The 'Details' field is a text input with the placeholder 'Enter free text here'. The 'Relevance' dropdown is set to a default value, and the 'Primary Factor' and 'Modifiable?' checkboxes are unchecked.

For example, in Domain A, to record smoking in pregnancy, the group would be “Risk factors in mother during pregnancy” and the subgroup would be “Smoking in pregnancy”, and you can then expand on this in the free text if you need to. This will make it easier to analyse cases where smoking in pregnancy was recorded as a contributory factor, and being able to break this down by relevance will provide a much greater insight into the contributing factors in child deaths.

In addition to the new dropdowns, we will implement new rules that will help to bring through some information from the reporting forms to the analysis form. These pre-populated factors are not exhaustive and will only assist with the most common factors, and will need to be reviewed, amended and graded by the CDOP. The rules will be released in eCDOP alongside the group and subgroup additions, and we will announce the date that they will go live for NCMD portal users soon.

The dropdowns and rules will be reviewed annually to ensure they are still relevant, and any updates to the lists will be communicated as necessary.

Which cases will this affect?

The changes will be available in eCDOP for any case where the CDR meeting and analysis form do not yet exist in eCDOP. This will mean that there will be an initial period where CDOP review meetings might include some cases without the new changes and some with the new changes applied.

In the NCMD portal, the new groups and subgroups will be available on all ongoing cases.

Where can I find a full list of the factor options?

You can find a full list of the contributory factor options, alongside explanations [here](#).

How will this work in our CDR/CDOP meetings?

During the meetings the panels will need to be aware of the list of factor groups, and where they will need to record them, to avoid problems for administrators at the point of data entry. You can find a full list of the contributory factor options, alongside explanations [here](#).

Is the relevance scoring changing?

There will be no changes to the relevance scoring on the analysis form, but it remains important to record one factor per box as this makes analysis easier. The relevance scoring system is as follows:

- 0 - Information not available
- 1 - No factors identified, or factors identified but are unlikely to have contributed to the death
- 2 - Factors identified that may have contributed to vulnerability, ill health or death

Will selecting a group and subgroup be mandatory?

It will be mandatory to select a group and subgroup for each contributory factor. This is necessary to facilitate good quality data analysis.

Will we be able to use and extract this data locally?

Future data extracts will be updated so that your CDOP can extract the more structured data from the system and use this for analysis. Any future reporting can also be updated to include data on contributory factors, and inclusion in the national CDR data release in future years will be considered.