



Centre for Maternal and Child Enquiries: Perinatal Death Notification, Maternal Death Notification, and Child Death Register Case Study

The Brief

Existing paper based data collection and centralised entry needed to be updated to allow individual remote users to enter data directly. Specific requirements were:

- In order to avoid confusion the data entry screens needed to replicate the existing paper based forms.
- Security was of the utmost importance – user permissions, access restrictions and encryption had to be taken into account.
- Reporting tools needed to be available to both regional offices and the central office.
- The Central Office needed to be able to take a local copy of the data in order to perform additional analyses as required.

The Solution

We suggested that an online solution would be best as it offered the most flexibility for both future development and usability. Each enquiry has its own unique website with a 128 bit SSL security certificate and individual user logins with access controls.

The forms are interactive and questions / answer fields are automatically updated as necessary based on other information entered. Online validation is also available so errors such as incorrect dates / missing core data can be corrected locally rather than by the central office.

Available reports are generated in PDF format to provide compatibility with both PCs and Macs.

In addition to the websites, three secure download gateway applications have been created to allow the central office to download the data whenever they need to in order to run further analysis / generate extra reports.

The Conclusion

By using the new systems the amount of time spent collecting, following up and correcting the data supplied by each region has been greatly reduced.

Reports for each regional office can now be generated on the website without any interaction from the central office, previously a regional office would have to request a report from the Central Office and they would manually create the report using Office applications before sending it out.

At the time of writing the regional offices were still completing the data entry for the hospitals, however following a successful trial of the system they plan on inviting hospitals to complete the data entry themselves in the near future.

Testimonial

"Bio-Medical Computing have over the years made an invaluable contribution to our development. We are a small organisation with a turnover of approx £2m running complex national databases for the health sector. We need external support both with maintenance and development of our systems. Biomedical Computing has worked alongside the team in developing tailored solutions to our programming needs. These have increased the efficiency and responsiveness of our systems and helped us to retain our position in a competitive environment."

Richard Congdon
Chief executive