

UPDATE TO DEATH CLASSIFICATION CODES IN ANZDATA

Executive Summary

In response to stakeholder feedback and following a review of international practices across renal registries, the ANZDATA Advisory and Executive Committees have approved an updated set of codes for reporting patient deaths.

The revised classification better reflects contemporary clinical practice and improves the accuracy and usefulness of cause of death reporting.

These changes are available **now** in the Online Electronic Data Collection tool. No retrospective coding will be applicable. Annual Report Output using the new codes will take effect for the 2027 survey period (Survey 78). New codes will also be included in the A3 Survey Paper Form from Survey 78 (2027).

Background

Feedback from stakeholders highlighted the need to update cause of death coding to better reflect current clinical practice and improve reporting relevance.

In response, ANZDATA undertook a comprehensive review of cause of death classification, including benchmarking against international renal registries.

This review identified opportunities to:

- Better capture clinically relevant and commonly reported causes of death
- Improve consistency and clarity in coding
- Align more closely with international registry standards

The updated classification also recognises emerging pathways, such as voluntary assisted dying, ensuring that the underlying clinical reasons for these pathways are appropriately captured for reporting and analysis.

New and Revised Codes

The updated codes:

- Introduces new causes and categories of death
- Revises and recodes some existing categories

Full details are provided in **Attachment A**. These data will be collected for all deceased patients.

Collection of Data Element

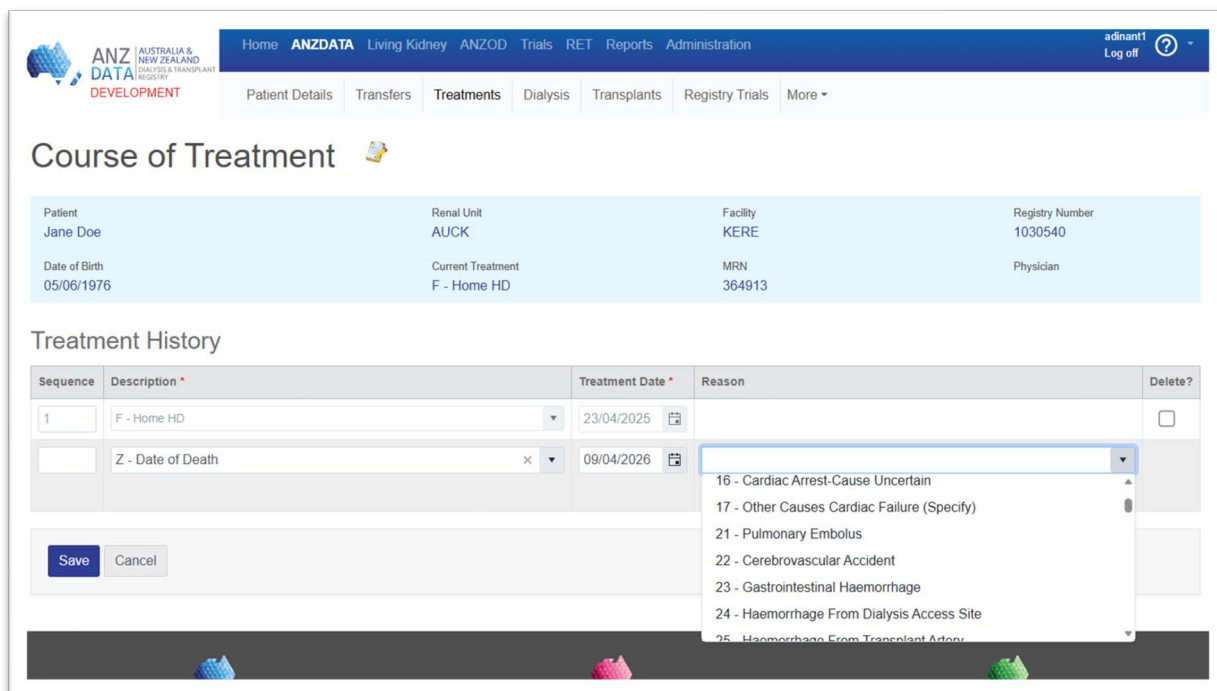
- Data should be reported at the time of death where possible, or at the end of the survey period if not previously submitted
- Online data collection will introduce new codes mid-2026 survey but will only be used in the 2027 annual survey analysis (Survey 78)
- The A3 paper survey form will include the updated cause of death list from issue of Survey 78 (2027)

What's New in ANZDATA Data Collection

- The online data entry screen (within the “Treatments” tab **Figure 1**) will include the new categories in a dropdown menu

Units are encouraged to report cause of death as soon as practicable following notification of death.

Figure 1 – Treatments Tab Screen View



Course of Treatment

Patient: Jane Doe
Date of Birth: 05/06/1976

Renal Unit: AUCK
Current Treatment: F - Home HD

Facility: KERE
MRN: 364913

Registry Number: 1030540
Physician:

Treatment History

Sequence	Description *	Treatment Date *	Reason	Delete?
1	F - Home HD	23/04/2025		☐
	Z - Date of Death	09/04/2026	16 - Cardiac Arrest-Cause Uncertain 17 - Other Causes Cardiac Failure (Specify) 21 - Pulmonary Embolus 22 - Cerebrovascular Accident 23 - Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage 24 - Haemorrhage From Dialysis Access Site 25 - Haemorrhage From Transplant Artery	

What's New in ANZDATA Data Collection

ATTACHMENT A: DEATH CLASSIFICATION CODES

CARDIAC - no changes in this category		
INFECTION - no changes in this category		
VASCULAR		
21	Pulmonary Embolus	
22	Cerebrovascular Accident	Code Removed
201	Cerebrovascular Accident - Ischaemic	Replaces Code 22
202	Cerebrovascular Accident - Haemorrhagic	Replaces Code 22
23	Gastrointestinal Haemorrhage	
24	24 Haemorrhage From Dialysis Access Site	
25	Haemorrhage From Transplant Artery	
26	Aortic Aneurysm-Rupture	
27	Haemorrhage From Elsewhere (Specify)	
28	Bowel Infarction	
SOCIAL		
40	Withdrawal-Psychosocial Reasons	Code Removed
41	Patient Refused Treatment (Specify)	Code Removed
404	Voluntary Assisted Death	Code Removed
42	Suicide	
43	Therapy Ceased Other Reasons (Specify)	
44	Accidental Death (All Causes) Specify	
45	Withdrawal - Cardiovascular Comorbid Conditions	
46	Withdrawal - Cerebrovascular Comorbid Conditions	
47	Withdrawal - Peripheral Vascular Comorbid Conditions	
48	Withdrawal - Malignancy	
49	Withdrawal - Dialysis Access Difficulties	
402	Withdrawal - Malignancy - VAD	Replaces Code 401
403	Withdrawal - Non-Malignant - VAD	Replaces Code 401
<i>Explanatory Text: Previously 401-voluntary assisted death. This has been updated to capture the underlying condition (e.g. malignancy) as the primary cause, with VAD recognised as the mechanism leading to withdrawal.</i>		
404	Withdrawal - Frailty	New Code
<i>Explanatory Text: Withdrawal – Frailty, where failure of no one specific organ-system prompts withdrawal, but rather overall patient frailty prompts KRT withdrawal.</i>		
405	Withdrawal - Dementia	New Code
406	Withdrawal – Other (Specify)	New Code
MISCELLANEOUS		
50	Hepatic Failure (Specify)	
51	Uraemia Caused by Graft Failure	
52	Pancreatitis	
53	Bone Marrow Depression	
54	Cachexia	
55	Unknown	
56	Malignant Disease	
57	Perforation Abdominal Viscus	
58	Dialysis Dementia (Aluminium)	
59	Other (Specify)	
60	Immunodeficiency Due to Viral Infection (Specify)	
61	Chronic Respiratory Failure	
62	Sclerosing Peritonitis	
601	Sudden cause - cause unknown	New Code
<i>Explanatory Text: Cause of death unknown, patient found at home deceased. Previously, users were encouraged to record a presumed cause of death. This code recognises that, in some cases, the cause remains unknown.</i>		
602	Calciphylaxis	New Code