



These graphics and tables describe the elements that should be considered and reported with toxicology and seized drug cases.

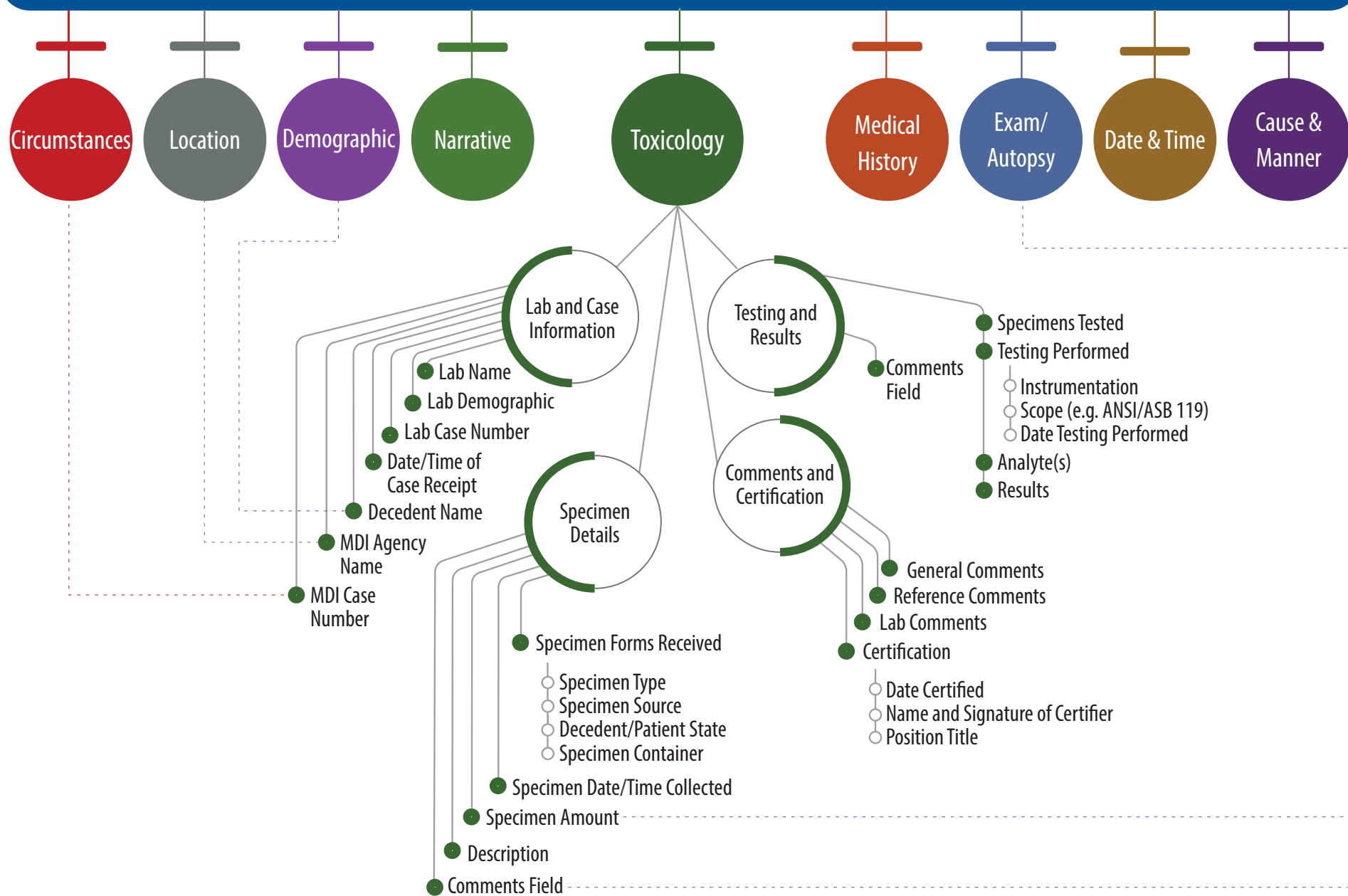
Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements for Toxicology and Seized Drugs

This graphic shows the list of data elements that should be considered and reported with toxicology and seized drug (chemistry) cases. This graphic also links these frequently used elements to sections within the report and to overarching categories of death investigation. Items represented as small, closed, and colored circles (e.g., Lab Name), located under each half circle (e.g., Lab and Case Information) are elements that are linked to each other. This graphic can be downloaded and used in training to ensure all are understood and considered for inclusion on reports. Additionally, the graphic can be used to develop checklist for toxicologists and chemists, develop programming characteristics for data developers to code laboratory information, or assist with standardization and consistency among data exchange as part of other resources.

Full list of [Medicolegal Death Investigation Frequently Used Data Elements](#).

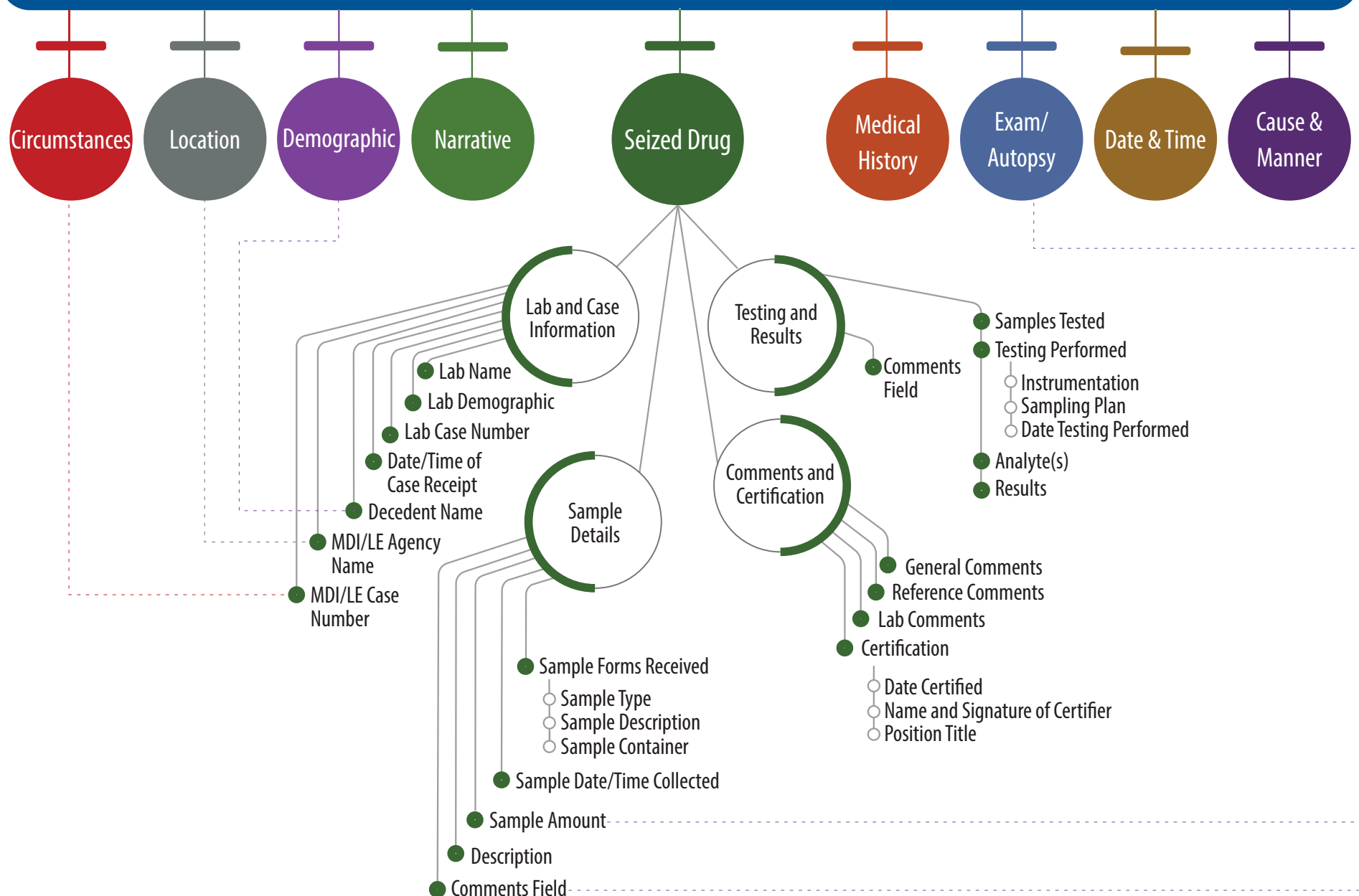


Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements



Toxicology	Description
Lab and Case Information	• Lab Name – The name of the laboratory performing the testing. • Lab Demographic – The address and location of the laboratory performing the testing. • Lab Case Number – The unique case number assigned by the laboratory to the case and associated specimens. • Date/Time of Case Receipt – The date and time that the case was received by the laboratory. • Decedent Name – The name of the decedent, if known. • MDI Agency Name – The name of the agency (e.g., medical examiner's office, coroner's office) investigating the death and/or circumstances. • MDI Case Number – The unique case number assigned by the agency investigating the death and/or circumstances.
Specimen Details	• Specimen Form Received – The types of specimens collected during autopsy/investigation and submitted to the laboratory for testing. The specimens are described by type, source, state, and container, as necessary. – Specimen Type – Blood, urine, vitreous, tissues, etc. – Specimen Source – Heart, iliac, chest, femoral, etc. – Decedent/Patient State – At time of sample collection, examples: Antemortem, postmortem, etc. – Specimen Container – Gray top tube, lavender top tube, urine collection cup, etc. • Specimen Date/Time Collected – The date and time that the specimens were collected. • Specimen Amount – The amount (i.e., volume, weight) of the specimen. • Description – The item number or specimen number associated with the specimens received. • Comments Field – A field to allow the laboratory to make comments about the specimens, their received state, their quality, etc. This field is used on an as-needed basis.
Testing and Results	• Specimens Tested – A detailed statement of what specimens were tested. • Testing Performed – A detailed statement of what testing was performed. The statement should include what instrumentation was used for analysis, what scope of testing was used, and what date the testing was performed. – Instrumentation – ELISA, GC-MS, LC-MS, LC-QTOF-MS, GC-FID, etc. – Scoped – List all drugs included within the scope of testing or provide a supplementary document that lists the scope of analysis. – Date Testing Performed – Optional to include. • Analyte(s) – A specific list of analytes (i.e., drugs, substances, etc.) detected (or not detected) during testing. • Results – Qualitative or quantitative results (including measurement uncertainty) based on testing for each analyte. For more information about reporting of results, refer to ASB 053: https://www.aafs.org/asb-standard/standard-report-content-forensic-toxicology • Comments Field – A field to allow the laboratory to make comments about the testing performed. This field is used on an as-needed basis.
Comments and Certifications	• General Comments – A field to provide general comments about the case and/or specimens. • Reference Comments – A field to provide additional information about the analytes reported and their results. • Lab Comments – A field to provide additional comments about the laboratory and its procedures (i.e., chain of custody, specimen seals, discard procedure, etc.) • Certification – The certification of the individual(s) signing the report, to include date of certification, name and signatures of each certifier, and their position title.

Medicolegal Death Investigation Data Elements



Seized Drugs	Description
Lab and Case Information	• Lab Name – The name of the laboratory performing the testing. • Lab Demographic – The address and location of the laboratory performing the testing. • Lab Case Number – The unique case number assigned by the laboratory to the case and associated specimens. • Date/Time of Case Receipt – The date and time that the case was received by the laboratory. • Decedent Name – The name of the decedent, if known. • MDI/LE Agency Name – The name of the agency (e.g., law enforcement, medical examiner's office, coroner's office) investigating the death and/or circumstances. • MDI/LE Case Number – The unique case number assigned by the agency investigating the death and/or circumstances.
Specimen Details	• Specimen Form Received – The types of samples collected during autopsy/investigation and submitted to the laboratory for testing. The samples are described by type, description, and container, as necessary. – Sample Type – Powder, plant material, pill, etc. – Sample Description – White, brown, oval, round, etc. – Sample Container – Plastic bag, cigarette, plastic container, etc. • Sample Date/Time Collected – The date and time that the samples were collected, if known. • Sample Amount – The amount (i.e., weight, volume, count) of the sample. • Description – The item number associated with the samples received. • Comments Field – A field to allow the laboratory to make comments about the samples, their quality, etc. This field is used on an as-needed basis
Testing and Results	• Samples Tested – A detailed statement of what samples were tested. • Testing Performed – A detailed statement of what testing was performed. The statement should include what instrumentation was used for analysis, the sampling plan used, and what date the testing was performed. – Instrumentation – GC-MS, LC-MS, GC-FID, FTIR, NMR, etc. – Sampling Plan – Administrative, Statistical, Hypergeometric, etc. – Date Testing Performed – Optional to include. • Analyte(s) – A specific list of analytes (i.e., drugs, substances, etc.) detected during testing. • Results – Qualitative or quantitative results (including measurement uncertainty) based on testing for each analyte. • Comments Field – A field to allow the laboratory to make comments about the testing performed. This field is used on an as-needed basis.
Comments and Certifications	• General Comments – A field to provide general comments about the case and/or specimens. • Reference Comments – A field to provide additional information about the analytes reported and their results. • Lab Comments – A field to provide additional comments about the laboratory and its procedures (i.e., chain of custody, sample seals, evidence disposition, etc.) • Certification – The certification of the individual(s) signing the report, to include date of certification, name and signatures of each certifier, and their position title.



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