

# CMR: Confidential Morbidity Report

You will use the standardized CMR (a form developed by California Department of Health Services) to report most diseases and conditions that might affect public health in our county.

The thumbnail below is a reduced copy of this one-page form.

## Confidential

As the form's name implies, **data about your patient will be kept confidential.** Data about the disease will be used to guide the public health response, and to generate accurate statistics.

## You don't have to fill out every single box

A complete report form is great. But a CMR with just critical information is better than no report at all. We know you're busy serving your patients.

## We ask you to complete at least these sections:

- Sufficient patient ID (name, DOB, & phone) to avoid confusion and to facilitate possible public health contact with patient
- Reporting health care provider (you) and date the CMR is submitted
- Date of Onset
- For STDs, treatment information
- For Tuberculosis, status and treatment information

## Local CMR makes history

A local dermatologist had three patients with unusual lesions, all of whom had pedicures at the same salon. She called the health department, which started an investigation.

Ultimately, we identified over 100 cases and the salon was closed. New regulations for pedicure baths were enacted and treatment recommendations for this previously uncommon organism were developed.

The outbreak garnered national media attention, including a segment on 20/20 and an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Of course, we can't guarantee that every CMR will land you an interview with Barbara Walters. But we can say that every report gives us a better understanding of local patterns of disease – increasing our ability to prevent, prepare, and protect the community.

**When phoning in an urgent morbidity report to us, you might find it helpful to organize your notes on a scratch CMR before dialing.**