The Maine Health Data Organization is authorized by statute to collect health care data.

PL 2021, Chapter 423, An Act To Improve Health Care Data Analysis, requires the Maine Health Data Organization and the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt a joint rule to require the reporting to the MHDO of data from the cancer-incidence registry established pursuant to 22 MRS §1404 and data related to the registration of vital statistics pursuant to 22 MRS §2701. This new rule meets the requirement as defined above.

The integration of the cancer registry and vital statistics data information into the MHDO data sets will enhance the data analysis in the State of Maine, specific to cancer research.

The provisions of this new rule include: Identification of the agencies involved and the reporting requirements; establishment of requirements for the content, format, method, and reporting periods for the data; data integration; and confidentiality.

The MHDO Board met on May 6, 2021 and authorized the MHDO to initiate rulemaking. A public hearing was held on November 4 with a public comment deadline of November 15, 2021. No comments were received.

**Statutory Authority:** 22 M.R.S. §§1406-A; 2706, sub-§2-A; and 8715-A; PL 2021, Chapter 423

**Effective Date:** December 14, 2021