Bereavement Information

Death Certification and the Coroner's Office

Important Information

- Add your personal bleep number And GMC Number to any entry you make especially if you are the doctor verifying a patient's death.

- Include date and time seen

Answer your bleep

- When bleeped or emailed by bereavement services, always try to answer or reply promptly
- If you cannot answer the bleep yourself, ask someone to answer for you
- Please confirm you have received emails
- Contact bereavement services as soon as possible

Consult colleagues

- Junior doctors must discuss with their consultant before issuing a cause of death certificate.
- If the consultant is not available speak with your senior and/or Advice can be given by the Medical Examiner in the Bereavement Department.

Writing a Cause of Death Certificate

- 1a Condition directly leading to death
- 1b Condition leading to 1a
- 1c Condition leading to 1b
- 1d Condition leading to 1c
- 2 Other conditions which could have contributed but do not form part of the chain of events

NEW MCCD

Coroners and Justice Act 2009
Form prescribed by the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death Regulations 2024

Attending Practitioner Medical Certificate of Cause of Death

For use by a Registered Medical Practitioner who has attended the deceased in their lifetime. This certificate is to be delivered by the relevant Medical Examiner as soon as practicable to the Registrar of Births and Deaths

Please refer to guidance for medical practitioners completing an MCCD on .GOV.UK

Unique ID: 0612001

Name of deceased (first, middle, and last) .....

Date of birth DD/MM/YYYY ..... Age .....

NHS number (if available) .....

Date of death as stated to me DD/MM/YYYY .....

Place of death .....

CAUSE OF DEATH The condition thought to be the underlying cause of death should appear in the lowest completed line of part I	Approximate interval between onset and death (These particulars not to be entered in the death register)
I (a) Disease or condition leading directly to death	
(b) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I (a)	
(c) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I (b)	
(d) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I (c)	
II Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not relating to the disease or condition causing it	

Circle the appropriate digit

1. The certified cause of death takes account of information obtained from post-mortem
2. Information from post-mortem may be available later
3. Post-mortem not being held
4. This death was reported to the coroner whose duty to investigate under s1 CJA2009 was not engaged

Circle the appropriate digit

Was the deceased pregnant within the year prior to their death?

0. Not applicable
1. Pregnant at the time of death
2. Pregnant 1-42 days before death
3. Pregnant 43 days to a year before death
4. Not pregnant
9. Unknown

If the deceased was pregnant within the year prior to their death, did the pregnancy contribute to their death?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Unknown

This death may have been due to, or contributed to, by the employment followed at some point by the deceased Yes No

I may be in a position to give, on application by the Registrar General, additional information as to the cause of death for the purpose of more precise statistical classification ☐

APC 1
Form 66

Ethnicity

Circle the digit of the ethnicity as it is recorded in the patient record. If there is no match with the list, or there is no ethnicity recorded, please circle '19. Not known.'

1. White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
2. White: Irish
3. White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
4. White: Any other White background
5. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean
6. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African
7. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian
8. Mixed or multiple ethnic groups: Any other mixed or multiple ethnic background
9. Asian or Asian British: Indian
10. Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
11. Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi
12. Asian or Asian British: Chinese
13. Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian background
14. Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Caribbean
15. Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: African
16. Black, Black British, Caribbean or African: Any other Black, Black British or Caribbean background
17. Other ethnic group: Arab
18. Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group
19. Not known

Implantable medical devices

Did the deceased have any implantable medical devices fitted during their lifetime? Yes No

If yes, provide details of the device and its location .....

If yes, has the device been removed? .....

For the attending practitioner to complete

Full name ..... Qualifications (as registered by GMC) ..... GMC number .....

Declaration: I confirm that I attended the deceased before their death and that the cause of death is as stated in this certificate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature ..... Date DD/MM/YYYY.....

For the medical examiner to complete

Full name ..... Qualifications (as registered by GMC) ..... GMC number .....

Declaration: I am a duly appointed medical examiner and following scrutiny I confirm that the cause of death is as stated in this certificate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature ..... Date DD/MM/YYYY.....

Reportable Deaths

- Industrial or violent
- Accident or trauma
- Allegations of medical mismanagement
- Death during or after surgery
- SelfAbuse or neglect
- Death during detention or immediately following release from police station or prison
- Sectioned under the mental health act

Contacting the Coroners Office

- At the bereavement suite you will be asked to speak with the Medical Examiner as in some cases the coroner's referral has been completed by the ME.
- The referral is completed on line we will provide you with the link.
- Coroner's officer will want to know patient details
- Reason for admission

To Issue or Not to Issue

- Coroner's office will inform ME's office / Bereavement if you can issue the cause of death certificate, we will contact you, by bleeping you or by email.
- If you can issue we ask that you write the certificate straight away
- If you cannot issue the bereavement staff will make the necessary arrangements

Don’t forget to ask

- The bereavement staff are here to help
- If in doubt, ask
- Take advantage of their experience in the completion of death certificates.