

Appendix 4. Medical Examiner Service

Medical Examiner Service and Death Certification Reforms

Dear colleagues, you should be by now aware that referral to the Medical Examiner (ME) for all deaths has become a statutory requirement from the 9th September 2024. Death certification reform and the introduction of medical examiners - GOV.UK

A ME scrutinises and agrees the terms of the (Medical certificate of cause of death) MCCD. Additionally, the Medical Examiner may wish to discuss this with a qualified attending practitioner (QAP) before the QAP completes the MCCD.

Delays in the completion of the MCCD impacts on limited Mortuary and funeral director capacity, particularly during seasonal peaks in death rates. More importantly, delays in MCCD completion and release of the deceased cause significant distress to next of kin and are increasingly a source of complaints.

The completion of a proposed MCCD cause of death proforma can significantly reduce delays in the Mortality process: <https://forms.office.com/e/7FMQBW34y8>.

This is a short MS forms document accessible via the link or QR code below to complete a proposed MCCD, contact details for the doctor, colleague and responsible consultant/ General Practitioner, copies of which are transmitted to the MEO. If the ME is happy with the proposed causes of death, then they give the go ahead for completion and if discussion is required, they have contact details at hand.

These issues have been highlighted at a national level through the Medical Examiner Service and the Deputy Chief Medical Officer (DCMO). The adoption of a MCCD proforma has been encouraged at a national level.

We seek this opportunity to make you aware of the above and to thank you for your contribution in addressing the issues identified and subsequently improving the experiences of the bereaved and the timely release of those deceased.

Please do refer to the below FAQs:

FAQS

1. Where can I get a copy of the form?

The form is available via:

- MWW Mid & West Wales Team (Hywel Dda and Swansea) – <https://forms.office.com/e/7FMQBW34y8>



- QR code:

2. When should the form be completed?

As soon as possible after death of the patient, certainly within one working day. It is imperative that the completion of the form does not delay the transfer of notes to the ME service

1. **Where can I get further information on the MCCD process Nationally:** via NWSPP Medical Examiner Service - NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership Nationally via gov.uk Death certification reform and the introduction of medical examiners - GOV.UK This following link may also be of use to you which has specific pages for GP practices: Medical Examiner Service (sharepoint.com).

Link to above Medical Examiner Service information via intranet:

[Medical Examiner Service.docx](#)- opens in a new tab.