

Coroner's Service Guidance.

The Senior Coroner has been asked by the CCG groups to provide guidance for doctors when managing the death of a patient.

General Considerations

All communications about the death of a patient must be in writing and sent by e-mail (there is no FAX at this court). Doctors should be advised that telephoning the Coroner's Service should not be necessary having followed the guidance below.

The Coroner's Service cannot accept the report of a death over the telephone or give advice about what to write on a MCCD.

The Registrar will be able to give advice about whether a particular cause of death can be registered and their contact numbers are set out below.

Barnet Registrars: 0208 359 6400
Harrow Registrars: 0208 901 2665
Brent Registrars: 0208 937 1010
Haringey Registrars: 0208 489 2605
Enfield Registrars: 0208 379 8501

A doctor wishing to discuss any matter relating to the death of a patient will need to speak to the Senior Coroner via the Clerk to the Senior Coroner. court.clerk@hmc-northlondon.co.uk
0208 447 7693.

The Coroner's Service does not provide a service for doctors to discuss cases with coroner's officers either in or out of hours.

The Coroner's Service does not provide an out-of-hours service beyond homicide, mass fatality and organ donation.

General Guidance for Doctors

The doctor should first consider whether he or she can issue a MCCD and if so should do so. Guidance can be found at the website:-

https://www.gro.gov.uk/Images/medcert_July_2010.pdf

The doctor should then consider whether the death should be reported to the Coroner's Service (advice about which cases should be reported to a coroner can be found on the GP/Hospital Referral Form) If the Death is reportable to the Coroner's Service the doctor will need to complete a GP/Hospital Referral Form.

A doctor should also consider whether a death should be reported to the police. The police should always be called where there is a death in the community where a doctor has attended and is unable to issue a MCCD.

The Coroner's Service uses 2 forms:-

A Notice of Death Form
A GP/Hospital Referral Form

A Notice of Death Form :- This will be sent to a surgery/hospital to notify a doctor that a patient has died and requesting whether the doctor can issue a MCCD. A copy of the MCCD should be sent by e-mail to the Coroner's Service.

If the doctor cannot issue a MCCD the doctor will need to complete a GP Referral Form and e-mail this to the Coroner's Service.

The Coroner's Service will only contact the doctor if additional information is required and this communication will be by e-mail.

GP/Hospital Referral Form.

This form is self-explanatory and is available on the IMIS system in GP surgeries or Bereavement Offices in hospitals.