



The Coroners Service for the
Northern District of Greater London
(Harrow, Brent, Barnet, Haringey and Enfield)

North London Coroners Court,
29 Wood Street,
Barnet EN5 4BE

Senior Coroner Andrew Walker
Clerk to the Senior Coroner:-
0208 447 7693

E-mail:- court.clerk@hmc-northlondon.co.uk.

16th May 2017

Dear Doctor,

The Senior Coroner is writing to all the General Practitioners in Barnet, Brent, Enfield, Haringey and Harrow to provide an update to the Coroner's Service in this area.

The Coroner's Service has successfully introduced a form that hospital doctors complete when referring a death to the coroner. Following requests from a number of doctors in the community that they use this form for reporting deaths to the Coroners Service it was decided to pilot a form for GP's to report a death to the Coroners Service.

The advice given to the staff at the Coroner's Service is set out below and has been included for your information.

The Senior Coroner proposes the following guidance:-

That the Coroner's Service is not able to give advice on the medical cause of death the Doctor wishes to write on a Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death.

The Coroner's Service will provide advice about whether a death needs to be reported to the Coroner's Service having regard to the medical cause of death and the circumstances in which the death occurred.

Whether requesting advice from the Coroner's Service about a death or reporting a death to the Coroner's Service the Doctor will be required to complete a GP Written Referral Form following the commencement date for each GP area.

The Coroner's Service will refer the Doctor to the relevant Registrar's office if the Doctor seeks advice about whether a particular cause of death would be acceptable to the Registrar.

The Senior Coroner is grateful to Dr Martin Harris <mailto:martin.harris1@nhs.net> (Mobile 07896 718812) who has kindly agreed to be available to support the pilot.

Please feel free to contact the Coroner's Service by contacting Rebecca Smith, Clerk to the Senior Coroner:- e-mail court.clerk@hmc-northlondon.co.uk. (Direct line 0208 447 7693) for any further information. The Senior Coroner would be looking to review the pilot in 3 months time and make any changes necessary and would be grateful for your comments.

The Senior Coroner has included the registrar's numbers below.

Barnet Registrars: 0208 359 6400, Haringey Registrars: 0208 489 2605, Enfield Registrars: 0208 379 8501, Brent Registrars: 0208937 1010, Harrow Registrars: 0208 424 1618

Best wishes as ever,

Senior Coroner Andrew Walker