

The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019

Sheffield
LMC



GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs

October 2019

As noted in the September LMC Newsletter, the Government announced new legislation, The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019, which took effect from 1 October 2019:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1112/made>.

There is an expectation that deaths are reported in writing rather than orally. In view of this, an online referral system will be introduced shortly. In the meantime, a referral template has been made available, which can be accessed via:

<http://www.sheffield-lmc.org.uk/website/IGP217/files/GP%20Referral%20Form.docx>

Ministry of Justice guidance on the new legislation can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/831100/notification-deaths-regulations-2019-guidance.pdf

IN SUMMARY:

The notification requirement

1. Even if a relative has reported a death to the coroner, a Medical Practitioner still needs to do so.
2. This should be in writing as soon as possible after death.
3. Oral notification is acceptable in rare circumstances and should be followed up with written notification.
4. Notification includes next of kin details.

Circumstances in which a notification should be made under regulation 3

Where death was due to:

1. Poisoning if intended or accidental. This includes acute alcohol ingestion but not chronic alcohol / smoking.
2. Contact with toxic substances.
3. Illicit substances, controlled drugs, psychoactive substance or accidental / intentional overdose of medicinal products.
4. Violence (self-inflicted or by others) or accidents such as road traffic collisions.
5. Self-harm.
6. Neglect or self-neglect. This does not include informed decisions, neglect due to dementia or chronic lifestyle choices (alcohol / smoking).
7. Undergoing any medical procedure or treatment.
8. Injury or disease attributable to employment.

Where death is:

9. Unnatural, but does not fall within any of the above circumstances.
10. Of unknown cause.
11. Suspected to have occurred while in custody or state detention.

If:

12. There is no attending registered medical practitioner. (Note you do not have to see the person within 14 days of death).
13. The certification cannot be completed within 5 days.