

The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019

Sheffield
LMC



GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs November 2020

In the September 2019 LMC Newsletter, we noted that the Government had announced new legislation - [The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019](#) took effect from 1 October 2019.

There is an expectation that deaths are reported in writing, with oral notification only being permitted in exceptional circumstances. It is expected that an online referral system will be introduced at some stage. In the meantime, a [referral template](#) has been made available.

The Ministry of Justice issued guidance on the new legislation in October 2019. Updated [guidance](#) was issued in March 2020 in view of The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019 being modified when specific provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020 are implemented.

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.
14. The identity of the deceased person is unknown.