

Medical Examiner Service

Information for Families and Carers



Telephone: 0117 414 0074

Email: nbn-tr.medicalexaminer@nhs.net.

Scan the QR code to view the Medical Examiner Service page on the Healthier Together website.

About this leaflet

This leaflet is for you if you have a close friend or family member who has recently died, particularly if you are their Next of Kin or will be registering their death. It will explain how the Medical Examiner Service is involved in the processes following someone's death.

The Medical Examiner Service has been introduced to examine all deaths in England and Wales that are not investigated by the coroner.

What does a Medical Examiner do?

A Medical Examiner is an independent doctor that has not been involved in the care of the person who has died. They ensure that:

- The information written on the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death is accurate.
- Deaths needing to go to the coroner are made in a timely fashion to avoid delays.
- The bereaved have a chance to ask questions about the cause of death and reflect on the care provided.

They scrutinise medical notes and speak with the treating doctor, who is often the GP, to discuss the person's care and the cause of death.

The Medical Examiner's Office is staffed by a team of Medical Examiners, supported by Medical Examiner Officers.

What can they help with?

The Medical Examiner's Office will be able to share any feedback to the healthcare provider. They can also request a review of the notes or further investigations into the care provided, to see if any improvements can be made in future.

The contents of the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will be explained to you, and you will have a chance to ask questions about the care or last illness of the person who has died.

The Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will not be issued until the cause of death has been reviewed by the Medical Examiner's Office or the Coroner's Office.

How will they contact me?

Before the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death is issued, you or someone with an appropriate relationship to the person who has died will receive a telephone call from the Medical Examiner's Office.

This can take several days and there is no need to make contact yourself. If you would prefer that another person speak to the Medical Examiner's Office, let the office know during the telephone call.

Who can I contact if I haven't spoken to a Medical Examiner?

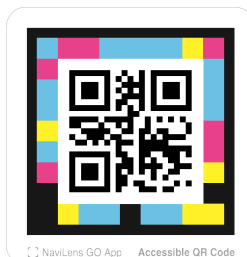
The Medical Examiner's Office will make reasonable attempts to contact the Next of Kin or equivalent.

If you have any questions or concerns about the cause of death or the care provided, please contact the Medical Examiner's Office on 0117 414 0074 or email nbn-tr.medicalexaminer@nhs.net.

Other formats

We want you and the people who help you to understand what we send. If you need help with this letter or leaflet, please tell us.

We can help with larger print, audio (a message to listen to), Easy read, British Sign Language or this information in another language.



You can phone us on 0117 414 0074 or email us at nbn-tr.medicalexaminer@nhs.net

Please scan the QR code to listen to an audio version of this statement.

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