

Death certification (MCCD) process during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Recognition:  
Can be done by anyone.  
Verification:  
This can be done by a competent person. Current national line is this requires training and that if no other trained individual can attend the deceased to do this the GP will need to attend at some point to do this.

Do you know the cause of death?

NO

YES

Has the deceased been seen by any doctor in the 28 days prior to death? (in person/video, NOT TELEPHONE)

NO

YES

Has any doctor physically seen the body of the deceased (including for verification of death)?

YES

NO

A doctor needs to see the body

Refer to the coroner ideally by email or local portal or by phone

Any GP can complete the MCCD & Cremation Form 4.

You do not need to see the deceased.

If you are completing the Crem Form and have not met the deceased, please refer to BOX 1 on next page.

The coroner is satisfied and issues a Form 100A, this form/ option officially gives permission for the GP to complete MCCD.

The coroner requires a further investigation.

You do not need to complete a MCCD or Crem Form 4.

**CHANGES TO DOCUMENT SUBMISSION**: The MCCD should be scanned or photographed and send by email securely (i.e. *nhs.net*) to the registrar as an attachment as many are working remotely. A wet signature will still be required on the original and at some time this will need to be delivered to the registrar so keep at the practice. Cremation Form 4 is available as a PDF and should also be submitted electronically with an electronic signature.



Additional Circumstances Advice

**BOX 1: If completing the Cremation Form 4 for a patient you did not attend:**

YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO THE PATIENT’S FULL RECORD.

**Checking the records for** **any hazardous implant (e.g. pacemaker, radioactive device or “Fixion” intramedullary nail system) is particularly important and presence or absence must be recorded in Question 23.**

The following guidance has been issued to help you complete the cremation form 4:  
Question 5: “certifying doctor” is an acceptable medical role in relation to the deceased but the name, GMC number and role of a medical practitioner who attended the deceased should be entered in question 9, along with the date the medical practitioner attended the deceased.  
Question 6: “Not applicable” is acceptable   
Question 7: “Not applicable” is acceptable  
Question 8: “Not applicable” is acceptable. If the Cremation Form 4 is being completed **on the basis another medical practitioner (= qualified doctor) has seen the deceased after death**, verification of the fact of death is acceptable. The date, time and nature of examination should be recorded in question 9 as well as the name and GMC number of the doctor attending before or after death.

All Doctors completing Form 4 should be available to discuss the case with the crematorium medical referee if necessary, so please provide a mobile number on the form.

**BOX 2: COVID-19 an acceptable, direct or underlying cause of death on the MCCD**

For clarity, the recording of “Probable Covid-19 or “Possible Covid-19” as a cause of death is **not acceptable on its own**. However, when accompanied by an acceptable cause of death in part 1 of the MCCD it can be accepted for registration without the need for referral.

So, for example the following would be acceptable: 1a Bronchopneumonia; 1b Probable Covid-19

**BOX 3:** **COVID-19 is a Notifiable Disease under the Health Protection Notification Regulations 2010; *this applies to******all test confirmed cases.***

Additionally, the local PHE Health Protection team should be informed of patients with symptoms of COVID-19 in the following settings:

• any case from a long-term care facility

• any case from a prison or prescribed place of detention

• any outbreak in a hospital or healthcare setting

• schools

• other unusual scenarios

**We do not believe that suspected COVID deaths need to be referred to public health unless they are in the criteria above.** However, despite COVID-19 being a notifiable disease **on this fact alone it does not need to be referred to the coroner.**