

Medical Examiner Southampton (MES)

Hosted by University Hospital Southampton (UHS)

Preparation for Statutory System April 2023

4 January 2023

To all Primary Care Networks, Practice managers and General Practitioners Southampton City

Dear Community Colleagues,

Re: Community Roll Out

The Medical Examiner system will become a statutory requirement by April 2023 when all **non-coronial** deaths will need to have independent and proportionate scrutiny.

At this time we are asking all Southampton City PCNs to start the process of referring/discussing all community and care home deaths with Medical Examiner Southampton (MES). Please see the referral flow chart for guidance and to understand how the process may work. We have been trialling the process across Solent based GP practices, Southampton City North PCN and a few practices across Southampton West. Feedback so far has allowed us to adapt in an endeavour to make the process more efficient.

Our collective aim is to enable a virtual discussion amongst the Medical Examiner (ME) and Medical Examiner Officer (MEO) based on the information received via Ardens template during the 24 hours after your referral. Medical Examiners are senior clinicians, who work within acute trusts supported by Medical Examiners Officers (MEO) providing scrutiny of cases in the 5 days prior to registration.

MES - Meet the team

- CEO and Responsible Officer for MES
 - Paul Grundy
- Director of UHS Charities, Patient Experience
 - Ellis Banfield
- Head of Patient and Family Relations
 - Debbie Watson
- MEO
 - Clare Mccormick
 - Megan Newman
 - Sarah Rudman
- Regional Team
 - Regional ME
 - Zoe Helmsley, Consultant Geriatrician, Portsmouth
 - Regional MEO
 - Amanda Martin, Portsmouth
- Registrar of Births and Deaths
 - Nicky Maynard
- Crematorium Registrar
 - Mike Baker

- Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton Senior Coroner:
 - Mr Christopher Wilkinson
- Lead Medical Examiners
 - Harnish Patel, Consultant Geriatrician
 - · Paul Wharton, GP Lordshill Practice
- Medical Examiners
 - Sarah Bell, GP, Living Well Practice
 - Lucy Dennison, Specialty Doctor Geriatrics
 - Laura Edwards, GP, Chair of Wessex LMC
 - Jonathan Fennell, Consultant Intensivist
 - Bryan Green, Consultant Histopathologist
 - Suvitesh Luthra, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon
 - Sarah Marshall, Specialty Doctor, Palliative Medicine
 - Nick Maskery, Consultant Emergency Care
 - Tom Pierce, Consultant Intensivist, CICU
 - John Pappachan, Consultant Intensivist, PICU
 - Sarah Robinson, Consultant Emergency Care
 - David Sparkes, Consultant Intensivist
 - Robert Wheeler, Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
 - Philip White, GP Urgent Care



Community MES Referral



Community MES referral Ver. 4 [030123]

Medical Examiner Southampton (MES) Community Death Reporting: Southampton City, Solent NHS Trust and Hampshire

Community Death Reporting: Southampton City, Solent NHS Trust and Hampshire **Contact details:** MEO Office - 023 8120 3564 | Secure email: uhs.medicalexaminersouthampton@nhs.net MES opening hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am-4.30pm (not Bank Holidays) Did you attend the deceased 28 days prior to death – in person or by video (not telephone) OR certified after death in person? Do you know the cause of death? Was the death entirely a natural cause? YES FOR CASES REQUIRING CORONER GP/practice/hospital doctor advises If you have a question or concern REFERRAL patient's next of kin (NOK)/ representative that Medical Examiner Southampton (MES) about the process or specific case, GP to complete referral to coroner using please feel free to contact the office on will review the death and will contact them the online portal before contacting MES. the number above. following this. Establish whether patient is to be buried or cremated. Please refer to the RCPath list of reportable deaths. GP/Dr to send fully completed referral form **ARDENS** death notification template and proposed cause of death to MES office v16.0 via email. Medical Examiner referral forms and Cremation forms are located on **ARDENS** death notification template **CORONER DECISION** v16.0 Electronic patient record (EMIS, S1) should be kept open to allow read only access for scrutiny. 100A - no further Inquest or action: Coroner's post-ME & MEO conduct initial scrutiny and call mortem: MCCD to be issued NOK to establish if they have any questions by GP MCCD cannot be MES referral form, Proposed cause of death, MCCD wording Concerns raised and/or proposed cause of Coroner's office 100A <u>and</u> and/or requirement for coroner referral death/MCCD wording/requirement for will take forward completed MCCD agreed by ME/MEO following initial coroner referral not agreed by ME/MEO MES service stops. (to match 100A proportionate scrutiny. following initial scrutiny. exactly) to be sent to MES office via No NOK concerns raised Discussion with assigned GP takes place by email. teams or by phone (15mins) and all aspects agreed/concerns discussed. MES provide confirmation to the practice via email that cause of death (COD) has been accepted. Completed MCCD to be sent to MES office Write MCCD & email to MES. Follow your via email. Do not give MCCD to the family. current process with respect to cremation Keep original for 4 weeks then dispose. forms and liaison with funeral directors. Do not give MCCD to the family. Keep original for 4 weeks then dispose. MEO to check MCCD prior to sending to registry office

MEO to call NOK/representative to confirm COD and explain registration process.

Concerns about COD to be flagged to MES for follow up.

Concerns about care to be directed to the relevant practice or Solent PALS team



Please can we ask all practices to locate the Ardens template and respective referral forms, discuss start dates within your individual practices/PCN and then inform MES when you intend to start referring in. We understand that the process is new, for all of us. However, one advantage of starting to come on board now is to improve the process by feedback so that we can collectively ensure that it is not only time efficient but comprehensive.

Thank you for your collective consideration, please do ask the team if you have any questions.

Dr Harnish Patel
On behalf of MES

Harnish.patel@uhs.nhs.uk

Mr Paul Grundy

CMO, University Hospital Southampton.

Cc

For reference:

Royal College of Pathologists Cause of Death List