

## **9 September 2024 is the go-live date for: changes to the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death and the statutory use of the Medical Examiners Service**

**All information on the changes can be found in this update.**

All GP practices/GPs will need to refer all non-coronial deaths to the Medical Examiner (ME) Service from 09 September 2024.

This is a national statutory date for this rollout and delays will occur for the next of kin registering a death if the new process is not followed from 09 September 2024.

### **Being ready to use the Medical Examiner service**

Most GP practices are already set-up to use the new IT system required for the Medical Examiner Service. If you still need help setting-up or you have not used the system in a while and need support please contact: [tsmith8@nhs.net](mailto:tsmith8@nhs.net)

Guides for SystemOne and EMIS can be found on the NW London website page below:

[NEW: Medical examiner process :: North West London ICS \(nwlondonicb.nhs.uk\)](https://nwlondonicb.nhs.uk)

The website page also has information for next of kin and practice staff, including:

- FAQ for staff
- Public information about the medical examiners service (including video)
- Contact details for the Medical Examiner's offices.

***Along with go-live of the Medical Examiner service there are important changes to the legislation on medical certificates of cause death (MCCD) that must be followed from 09 September 2024.***

### **Changes to the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) These new processes must be followed from 09 September 2024**

#### **Process**

1. New MCCD books have been issued nationally from the Department of Health and Social Care - the new medical certificates of cause of death must be used from the date of statute 09 September 2024 – **any old certificates used after this date will be rejected.**

**(PLEASE DO NOT USE THE NEW MCCD BEFORE THIS DATE)**

New MCCD books were sent out during July by FedEx from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

**If your practice has not received the new MCCD book – please contact the DHSC directly [mccd@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:mccd@dhsc.gov.uk)**

2. From the date of statute (09 September 2024), the MCCD must be sent to the Registrar's office by the Medical Examiner's office. **The completed MCCD must therefore be sent by email to the ME office by the GP, and not direct to the Registrar office.**

3. The MCCD must be signed by the Medical Examiner before it is sent to the Registrar.


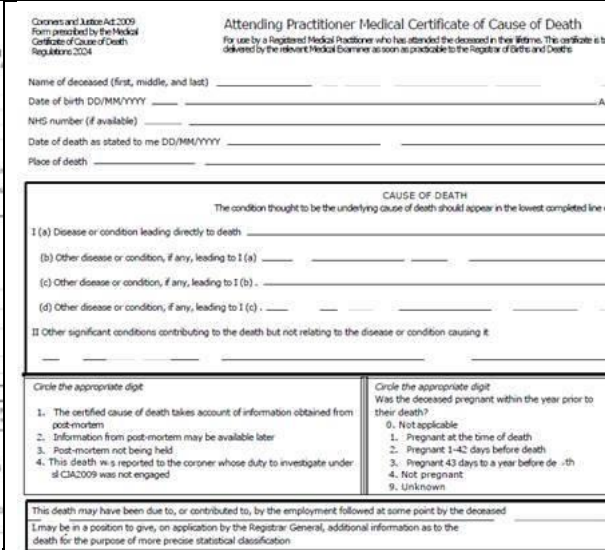
### Form changes

4. The requirements for issuing a MCCD have changed. This no longer needs to be a medical practitioner who has seen the patient alive in the last 28 days of life, but any practitioner who has seen the patient in life. They must be able to formulate cause of death "to the best of their knowledge and belief".

5. New fields have been added to the MCCD:

1. Ethnicity
2. Presence/absence of an implantable medical device
3. Additional line 1d - The cause of death is currently expressed as immediate, direct cause of death and its underlying causes (1a, 1b and 1c) and any contributory causes of death (II). With the new legislation, and to bring us in line with other countries, section 1 will be expanded to have 1d as well as 1a-c.

6. The cremation form 4 is being abolished as this new process will be in place.

Current form	New form (must be used from 9 September 2024)
 <p>The current form is titled 'MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH' under the 'BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT 1953'. It includes fields for Name of deceased, Date of death, Place of death, and Last seen alive by me. The 'CAUSE OF DEATH' section has four options (1a-1d) for the certified cause of death. It also includes a section for 'Other significant conditions' and a signature line for the Medical Examiner.</p>	 <p>The new form is titled 'Attending Practitioner Medical Certificate of Cause of Death' and is 'Form prescribed by the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death Regulations 2024'. It includes fields for Name of deceased, Date of birth, NHS number, and Date of death. The 'CAUSE OF DEATH' section has four options (I (a)-(d)) for the underlying cause of death and a section for 'Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not relating to the disease or condition causing it'. It also includes a section for 'Was the deceased pregnant within the year prior to their death?' and a signature line for the Medical Examiner.</p>