

Message for practice managers & GPs issuing medical certificates after death

The changes introduced last Spring to the death certification process remain in force under the Coronavirus Act (2020).

We have noticed that some surgeries are confusing some elements of the new process so we would be grateful for your attention to the following :-

The MCCD document

Once completed, a scanned copy of the MCCDs (medical certificates confirming cause of death) must be sent to registrars.admin@suffolk.gov.uk

It should not be given to the relatives of the deceased. Please scan both the front and back of the document.

The Original copy of the MCCD should be posted to Ipswich Register Office, 16 Grimwade Street, Ipswich, IP4 1LP.

Relatives of the deceased

Relatives should be informed that the MCCD has been scanned to us and then directed to our dedicated death registration page [here](#). If they do not have internet access, they can call us on 0345 607 2050. Our preference is that they use our web page if possible as our phone lines are currently very busy.

Completion of the MCCD

- Any qualified medical practitioner can complete a MCCD if :-
 - they are satisfied the death is due to natural causes from the information available to them (eg; within patient notes)
 - they, or another medical practitioner has seen the deceased either after death or 28 days prior to death
 - the definition of 'seen 28 days prior to death' includes a Skype or video attendance, or
 - the definition of medical practitioner is a qualified doctor with licence to practice registered with the GMC – paramedics & nurse practitioners are not able to complete a MCCD.

Please note: a skype or video attendance **cannot** be used to satisfy the requirement of attendance after death – that does need to be in person.

When completing the fields that refer to 'last seen alive' they should be amended to reflect who by, and how the deceased was seen:-

- Eg: 'last seen alive by ~~me~~ Dr xxx (via skype) dd/month/yyyy