Dear All,

In June 2022, the Government announced its intention to work towards the statutory medical examiner system commencing from April 2023, recognising the need for all relevant government departments to be ready and aligned to enable successful implementation.

In line with legislation for Medical Examiners to be embedded in the community from 1 April 2023, the role of the Medical Examiner office has now been extended to include non-coronial deaths wherever they occur.

For further information see link below:

[NHS England » Information for primary care on extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-coronial deaths in the community](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.england.nhs.uk%2Festablishing-medical-examiner-system-nhs%2Fnon-coronial-deaths-in-the-community%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cmanish.prasad1%40nhs.net%7Ca09952782557453e093108db10da0ef9%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638122302539381302%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ht7XSaliY7Gb6p0B%2FB%2BetUkdTazzCv%2F0%2FvjGq3h5ink%3D&reserved=0)

The role of the Medical Examiner is to:

1. Agree cause of death
2. Carry out a proportionate review of medical records and liaise with doctors completing the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD). This review will need to be undertaken by the ME before the final MCCD can be completed.
3. Liaise with the bereaved and answer any questions or concerns

Please see the attached **‘information for GP surgeries’** document, which explains more about the role, purpose and details about referrals.

Implementing the Medical Examiner model does not introduce any new requirements to view the body and there is normally no need for a verbal discussion between GPs and the Medical Examiner with most cases. Medical Examiners only need access to the relevant part of the medical record.

Attached are some useful documents for practices to support the implementation, including the referral template which will need to be completed and sent to the Medical Examiner. This has been designed in a way which can be auto populated to reduce any excessive administrative burden.

Our Stockport Medical Examiner Office is headed by Dr James Catania (ME Lead) and Ellie Skelton (Lead MEO).

**We are encouraging all practices to test the model to familiarise yourselves with the process and an opportunity to provide your input into ME policies and procedures which will ensure that the ME service will work as ergonomically as possible alongside GP practices in-house policies and procedures. To commence please contact:**

**Ellie Skelton, Lead Medical Examiner Officer for Stockport and East Cheshire**[ellie.skelton@stockport.nhs.uk](mailto:ellie.skelton@stockport.nhs.uk)

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.