

Useful links for MEs

RCPATH guidance

One page summary of death certification reform changes:

<https://www.rcpath.org/static/a78a8b4b-0c24-45ac-8422531e6218bcb8/Death-certification-reformschanges-from-9-September-2024Final.pdf>

Cause of Death list: <https://www.rcpath.org/uploads/assets/c16ae453-6c63-47ff-8c45fd2c56521ab9/G199-Cause-of-death-list.pdf>

The COD List will be updated in 2025 to reflect the changes in the statutory system.

RCPATH ME website homepage: <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners.html>

Role of the ME, including model job description: <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners/the-role-of-medical-examiners.html>

Role of the MEO, including model job description: <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners/medical-examiner-officers.html>

If you have further questions about MEs: medicalexaminer@rcpath.org

National Medical Examiner publications

National Medical Examiner homepage: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/establishing-medical-examiner-system-nhs/>

The National Medical Examiner's Guidance for England and Wales, essential for setting up and running an ME service: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/national-medical-examiners-guidance-for-england-and-wales/>

The National Medical Examiner's Annual Reports: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-medical-examiner-reports/>

The National Examiner's Good Practice Series, providing focused information on relevant topics: <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners/good-practice-series.html>

Contact details for ME offices in England: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/patient-safety/patient-safety-insight/national-medical-examiner-system/contact-details-for-medical-examiner-offices-in-england/>

DHSC guidance

Guidance for medical practitioners completing the MCCD:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medical-certificate-of-cause-of-death-mccd-guidance-for-medical-practitioners/guidance-for-medical-practitioners-completing-medical-certificates-of-cause-of-death-in-england-and-wales>

Referring to the Coroner

Notification of Death Regulations 2019 – when to refer a death to the Coroner:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/1112/made>

MoJ guidance to accompany notification of deaths regulations:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878083/revised-guidance-for-registered-medical-practitioners-on-the-notification-of-deaths-regulations.pdf

Touche v HM Coroner – case in which an otherwise natural death is found to have been unnatural as it resulted from failure to provide adequate monitoring and treatment i.e. an act of omission: <https://www.casemine.com/judgement/uk/5a938b4160d03e5f6b82bd88>

Chief Coroner guidance no 31 (death referral and medical examiners):

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Guidance-No.-31-Death-Referrals-and-Medical-Examiners.pdf>

Chief Coroner guidance no 32 (post mortem examinations):

https://www.coronersociety.org.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1569321731-72.pdf

Chief Coroner guidance no 45 (stillbirth and live birth following TOP):

<https://www.judiciary.uk/guidance-and-resources/chief-coroners-guidance-no-45-stillbirth-and-live-birth-following-termination-of-pregnancy/>

Chief Coroner Guidance no 47 (the death certification reforms):

<https://www.judiciary.uk/guidance-and-resources/guidance-no-47-the-death-certification-reforms/>

All Chief Coroner guidance (includes links to the above):

<https://www.judiciary.uk/related-offices-and-bodies/office-chief-coroner/guidance-law-sheets/coroners-guidance/>

Cremation Guidance

Guidance for applicants, funeral directors, crematorium managers and medical referees, and

cremation forms: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cremation-forms-and-guidance>

Structured Judgement Reviews

Using the SJR method – a clinical governance guide to mortality case record reviews:

https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/sites/default/files/media/Documents/NMCRR%20clinical%20governance%20guide_1.pdf

Using the SJR method – a guide for reviewers:

https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/sites/default/files/media/Documents/NMCRR%20guide%20Engl and_0.pdf

Implementing SJRs for improvement: <https://www.patientsafetyoxford.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Structured-Judgement-Review-Toolkit-June-2018.pdf>