**Somerset and North Somerset Registration Service**

**Information for Community Deaths**

As we step away from the easements contained in the Coronavirus Act 2020 and back to the existing legislation The Registration of Births and Deaths Regulations 1987 have been reviewed and updated to enable additional flexibility, which includes, amongst others, the electronic transmission of MCCDs and the extension of the last seen alive date from 14 to 28 days.

**Can I complete the MCCD?**

* Deaths are required by law to be registered within 5 days of their occurrence unless there is to be a coroner’s post mortem or an inquest therefore certifying doctors have a responsibility to complete the MCCD within a timely manner
* A doctor who attended the deceased during their last illness has a legal responsibility to complete a MCCD
* There is no clear legal definition of “attended”, but it is generally accepted to mean a doctor who has cared for the patient during the illness that led to death and so is familiar with the patient’s medical history, investigations and treatment.
* Please note ‘last seen alive by me’ has been extended to include by means of video conferencing (however this does not apply in respect of seeing the deceased after death).
* If the certifying doctor has not attended the deceased within 28 days before death **or** the deceased was not seen after death by the certifying doctor, the MCCD can still be completed. However, the certifying doctor will be obliged to refer the death to the coroner before it can be registered.
* Ensure that all sections on the MCCD have been completed and the cause of death is acceptable
* See [Royal Society of Pathologists Cause of Death List](https://www.coronersociety.org.uk/_img/pics/pdf_1593781377-566.pdf) for further information

**Flowchart**

Doctor in attendance should complete the MCCD

Refer to Coroner

Is there another doctor who has been in medical attendance and seen the patient in the last 28 days **or** after death?

Have you seen the patient after death?

You cannot complete the MCCD

Complete MCCD

Was it in the last 28 days?

Patient dies

Have you ever seen the patient alive (including via video call)?

**When the MCCD has been completed . . .**

* Registration Services will **ALWAYS** require a scanned copy of the MCCD
* Scan to SomersetRegistrations@somerset.gov.uk
* Please note patients name and date of death in the subject line of email for ease of searching, tick box to confirm you have advised the next of kin or advise if you do not have any details (Appendix A)
* It is a requirement of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953, for the notice to be issued to the informant in the prescribed form (Appendix B), except where an inquest is held. The new legislation enables this to be sent to the informant electronically or to be issued in paper form, and will advise the next of kin that the paperwork has been issued so that they can book an appointment to register the death – please include the following information when advising the next of kin

To make an appointment to register a death please call Somerset Registration Service on 01823 282251

* **Please note that we intend to offer online booking in due course and will update you when the service is available. This is dependent upon informants being advised that the MCCD has been completed, and us receiving the MCCD before the appointment.**
* Retain paper copy of MCCD for a period of 4 weeks in case of queries
* After 4 weeks the paper copy can be confidentially destroyed
* The new legislation enables the electronic transmission and storage of documents, it does not remove the provision for the existing paper process. Therefore, although it is still acceptable to give a paper copy of the MCCD to the next of kin, **IN PRACTICE** it has been proven that sending the electronic copy directly to the registration service provides a much better customer journey therefore this is the preferred option

**Please note that this applies to MCCDs completed after 24th March 2022.**

**Existing paper copies held from the start of the pandemic will be required to be forwarded to Somerset Registration Service.**

**Please package them up in Serial Number order with covering note stating:**

**SURGERY NAME AND ADDRESS:**

**SERIAL NUMBER FROM:**

**SERIAL NUMBER TO:**

**Send to:**

**Certificate Services**

**Somerset Heritage Centre**

**Brunel Way**

**Taunton**

**TA2 6SF**

**If there are more than can be posted please call us on 01823 282251 to make arrangements to drop them at your local office or Somerset Heritage Centre**

**Appendix A**



**Appendix B**

