

Key things to remember when certifying a death, which will help avoid rejection at Registrations:

- **Last seen alive** – If you have not seen the patient alive in person, or by video call within the 28 days prior to their death then this needs to be referred to HMC. HMC will **only** allow you to issue the paperwork in these circumstances if you have seen the patient in their last illness.
- **Spontaneous / Non-traumatic** – for use when certifying an intracerebral or gastrointestinal haemorrhage as a cause of death which was not caused by trauma or anticoagulation. Also, should be used if certifying a bowel perforation or obstruction as a cause of death.
- **Idiopathic/Non-industrial** – conditions such as Pulmonary Fibrosis, which could be deemed unnatural, **must** be classified on the MCCD as either idiopathic or non-industrial otherwise Registrations will assume it is unnatural and reject the certificate.
- **Frailty** – **cannot** be used for anyone under **80yo** on any section of the MCCD, unless authorised by HMC. If referring to HMC & proposing frailty, there must be full rationale given to HMC to justify eg, general decline, Rockwood scoring etc.
- **Aspiration pneumonia** – **cannot** be used in 1a alone, needs to have supporting cause in 1b.
- **Falls/fractures** – if a fall/fracture or any form of traumatic injury is mentioned in the cause of death, the case **must** be referred to HMC.
- Mentioning any form of medical intervention/operation on an MCCD will require a referral to HMC.
- Rejections at Registration will normally bypass the GP practice/hospital and go straight to HM Coroner's office & therefore unless GPs/hospital are contacted by HMC office, they will have no knowledge that their MCCD was rejected.

Notification to His Majesty's Coroner (HMC)

- the cause of death is unknown
- the deceased was not seen alive by the certifying doctor within 28 days before death
- the death was violent or suspicious
- the death was unnatural
- the death may be due to an accident (whenever it occurred)
- the death may be due to self-neglect or neglect by others
- the death may be due to an industrial disease or related to the deceased's employment
- the death may be due to an abortion
- the death occurred during an operation or before recovery from the effects of an anaesthetic
- the death may be a suicide
- the death occurred during or shortly after detention in police or prison custody
- the death occurred while the deceased was subject to compulsory detention under the Mental Health Act
- for any other concerning feature

NB - all referrals apart should be made to HM Coroners Office via the Somerset Medical Examiner Service using the Electronic Death reporting form. The form should be completed electronically and not handwritten and scanned.

Once the case has been reviewed by the ME, the EDRF will be forwarded to HMC with the practice copied in.