



Consortium of Local Medical Committees

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Verification of Death

We know that some GPs have concerns regarding requests to verify deaths at this current time. We are, therefore, offering the following clarifications:

- In English law there is no requirement to *verify* a death. This has not changed in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.
- To *verify* a death is to perform checks that when someone has died to confirm that they are actually dead.
- These checks can be performed by any person who feels competent to do them and does not require medical or nursing training.
 - a. At home, these checks can be undertaken by a relative/member of the household.
 - b. These checks can be undertaken by staff working in nursing/care facilities.
- Undertakers can move a deceased person to a funeral parlour without verification, as long as there are no suspicious circumstances, and the death did not directly result from; trauma, surgery, violence, medications, drugs, self-harm, neglect or exposure to a toxic substance.