



**Derek Winter DL**  
**Senior Coroner for the City of Sunderland**

**Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD)**

- 1 Schedule 13 of The Coronavirus Act changes the requirements so that ANY Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) may sign the MCCD, if:
  - (a) it is not possible or practical for any RMP who attended the patient to sign, AND
  - (b) the RMP signing is able to state to the best of their knowledge and belief the cause.
  
- 2 In addition the deceased must have been:
  - (a) attended (including by video, but not by telephone) within 28 days (instead of 14) prior to death by any (i.e. not necessarily the signing) RMP, **or**
  - (b) seen after death by any RMP in person (not by video).If neither 2(a) nor 2(b) can be fulfilled the death should be referred to the Coroner, who is likely to issue a Form 100A to allow registration to take place.
  
- 3 When completing the MCCD, if the patient had been seen by another RMP, and not you, during the prior 28 days, then delete 'me' from "Last seen alive by me", and write in the RMP's name, their GMC number, and the date they had seen the deceased (see example below).

- 4 If seen after death by you, then put in the date you last saw the patient prior to death, regardless of how long ago. If never seen by you prior to death, annotate as paragraph 3 to include name and GMC number of the last RMP to see the patient alive, and the date seen.
  
- 5 If in your opinion Covid-19 infection either led or contributed to the death, then this should be included as a "Cause of Death". Covid-19 is an acceptable direct or underlying cause of death and is not, on its own, a reason to refer to the Coroner. "Probable" or "Possible" Covid-19 can be written but must be accompanied by a substantive cause of death in Part 1b/1c. Such cases may indicate the patient has displayed symptoms but did not have a positive Covid-19 swab result.
  
- 6 Both sides of the completed MCCD should be scanned or photographed and emailed to the registrars' mailbox: [medical.certificates@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:medical.certificates@sunderland.gov.uk).
  
- 7 The original completed copies of MCCDs should be sent on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month to:  
*Suzanne Errington, Bereavement Support and Registration Services Manager*  
*Register Office, Civic Centre, Sunderland SR2 7DN*

Please also see Chief Coroner's Guidance 34-37 for further information, including possible exposure to Covid-19 in the workplace:  
<https://www.judiciary.uk/related-offices-and-bodies/office-chief-coroner/guidance-law-sheets/coroners-guidance/>



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**Form Cremation 4**

- 1 Section 19 of the Coronavirus Act removes the requirement for Form Cremation 5 (Part 2) to be completed.
- 2 Any Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) can complete Form Cremation 4 and they do not have to have seen the deceased if:
  - (a) a RMP has attended the deceased (including video) within 28 days, *or*
  - (b) a RMP has viewed the body after death in person (not by video), *or*
  - (c) the death has been registered with an MCCD supported by a Form 100A from the Coroner.
- 3 In preference an electronic version of the form should be completed. This can be downloaded from: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/cremation-forms-and-guidance](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cremation-forms-and-guidance).
- 4 Detailed guidance regarding completion of Form 4 can be found at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/878093/revised-guidance-to-medical-practitioners-completing-form-cremation-4.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878093/revised-guidance-to-medical-practitioners-completing-form-cremation-4.pdf)
- 5 All questions of Form Cremation 4 should be completed - even if just "not applicable" (N/A).
- 6 SUMMARY OF CHANGED ADVICE DURING PANDEMIC FOR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

**Question 5.** If you were not the deceased's usual medical practitioner, answer 'no' and include details of the deceased's usual medical practitioner in Question 9.

**Question 6.** If you did not attend the deceased prior to their death, you should answer 'N/A'.

**Question 7.** If you did not see the deceased prior to their death, you should answer 'N/A'. If another RMP saw the deceased prior to death, details of this attendance should be reported at Question 9. If your last attendance of the deceased was by a digital consultation, state how many days and hours before the deceased's death that consultation took place and write 'by video' to the right of the 'hours' box. Audio-only consultations (e.g. by telephone) are not acceptable for the purposes of Question 7.

**Question 8.** If you saw the body of the deceased, complete with the date and time and a record of the examination you made. This cannot be via digital means. If the body of the deceased was not seen by you, or was seen by another RMP known to you, answer 'N/A' and report the observations of the other RMP at Question 9 including their full name and GMC number.

**Question 9.** Include:

- Name and GMC number of deceased's usual medical practitioner, if you are not.
- Name and GMC number of any RMP, who attended/saw the deceased after death.
- Details of deceased's symptoms in the period leading up to death from the record or after discussion or other exchange with any RMP who saw the deceased prior to death or saw the body.

- 7 Submission of form: Sunderland Royal Hospital doctors should forward completed forms to the Bereavements Office in the first instance. GPs should forward completed forms to the funeral director.

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