



Derek Winter DL
Senior Coroner for the City of Sunderland

**Summary of arrangements for death certification and registration after
the Coronavirus Act expires at midnight on 24 March 2022.**

Death Certification

- The period before death within which a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) must have seen the deceased patient will remain 28 days rather than reverting back to 14 days.
- Medical Practitioners should continue to send MCCDs to registrars electronically by emailing to; medical.certificates@sunderland.gov.uk but there is no longer a need to provide a paper copy thereafter.
- The provision temporarily allowing **any** RMP to complete the MCCD will be discontinued. Going forwards only a RMP who has attended the deceased during their last illness and seen them (in person or via video consultation) up to 28 days before death OR viewed the body after death in person (including verification of death) can issue the MCCD without referring to the Coroner. The cause of death is to be stated to the best of the doctor's knowledge and belief.

If a RMP has not seen the deceased within 28 days prior to death or after death it is still possible for the MCCD to be issued but only after referral to the Coroner via the usual electronic portal. If the cause of death is natural and the Coroner's Officer confirms there are no relevant concerns from the family, the doctor will be asked to proceed to issue the MCCD and asked to circle number 4 which indicates "I have reported this death to the Coroner for further action" and also enter "100A" in box A on the reverse of the MCCD.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTRATION ACT 1953 <small>(Form prescribed by the Registration of Births and Deaths Regulations 1987)</small>		MED A 31	442889
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH <small>For use only by a Registered Medical Practitioner WHO HAS BEEN IN ATTENDANCE during the deceased's last illness, and to be delivered by him forthwith to the Registrar of Births and Deaths.</small>		<small>Registrar to enter No. of Death Entry</small>	
Name of deceased <u>Mrs First name Last name</u>			
Date of death as stated to me <u>TWENTY FIRST</u> day of <u>NOVEMBER</u> 20 <u>21</u> Age as stated to me <u>74</u>			
Place of death <u>MORRIS CARE CENTRE, 55 THORNTON ROAD, THORNTON CROSS, SUNDERLAND</u>			
Last seen alive by me <u>TWENTY SECOND</u> day of <u>SEPTEMBER</u> 20 <u>21</u>			
1 The certified cause of death takes account of information obtained from post-mortem. 2 Information from post-mortem may be available later. 3 Post-mortem not being held. <input checked="" type="radio"/> 4 I have reported this death to the Coroner for further action. <small>[See overleaf]</small>		Please ring appropriate digit(s) and letter <input type="radio"/> a Seen after death by me. <input type="radio"/> b Seen after death by another medical practitioner but not by me. <input type="radio"/> c Not seen after death by a medical practitioner.	
CAUSE OF DEATH <small>The condition thought to be the 'Underlying Cause of Death' should appear in the lowest completed line of Part I.</small>		<small>These particulars not to be entered in death register</small> Approximate interval between onset and death	

In cases where doctors have never personally treated the patient for their last illness but can suggest a natural cause of death (perhaps when the usual doctor is on holiday) the same procedure applies; referral to the Coroner is needed in the first instance and if the doctor is asked to complete the MCCD they do so as usual but omit their signature; an "uncertified" death.



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- MCCDs must be sent to the Registrars (medical.certificates@sunderland.gov.uk) and Coroner's Office where applicable (coroner@sunderland.gov.uk) without delay so that forms can be processed and any potential problems identified in advance of the family's appointment to register the death within 5 days.

Cremation & Burial

- The form Cremation 5 will **not** be reintroduced after the Coronavirus Act expires.
- The criteria for RMPs completing the Cremation 4 form is the same as for the MCCD. RMPs will be able to complete the Cremation 4 without the death having been referred to the Coroner if they attended the deceased (including visual/video consultation) within 28 days before death, or viewed the body in person after death (including for verification).

Death Registration

- Informants will have to register deaths in person at City Hall, as opposed to by telephone.
- Funeral directors will no longer be able to act as informants.

The Form 9/Green Form will be scanned electronically to bereavement services if the funeral is in Sunderland, otherwise the form will be given to the informant to pass to funeral directors as appropriate.

For further information please consult [Coronavirus » Guidance for medical practitioners on Coronavirus Act excess death provisions \(england.nhs.uk\)](#).

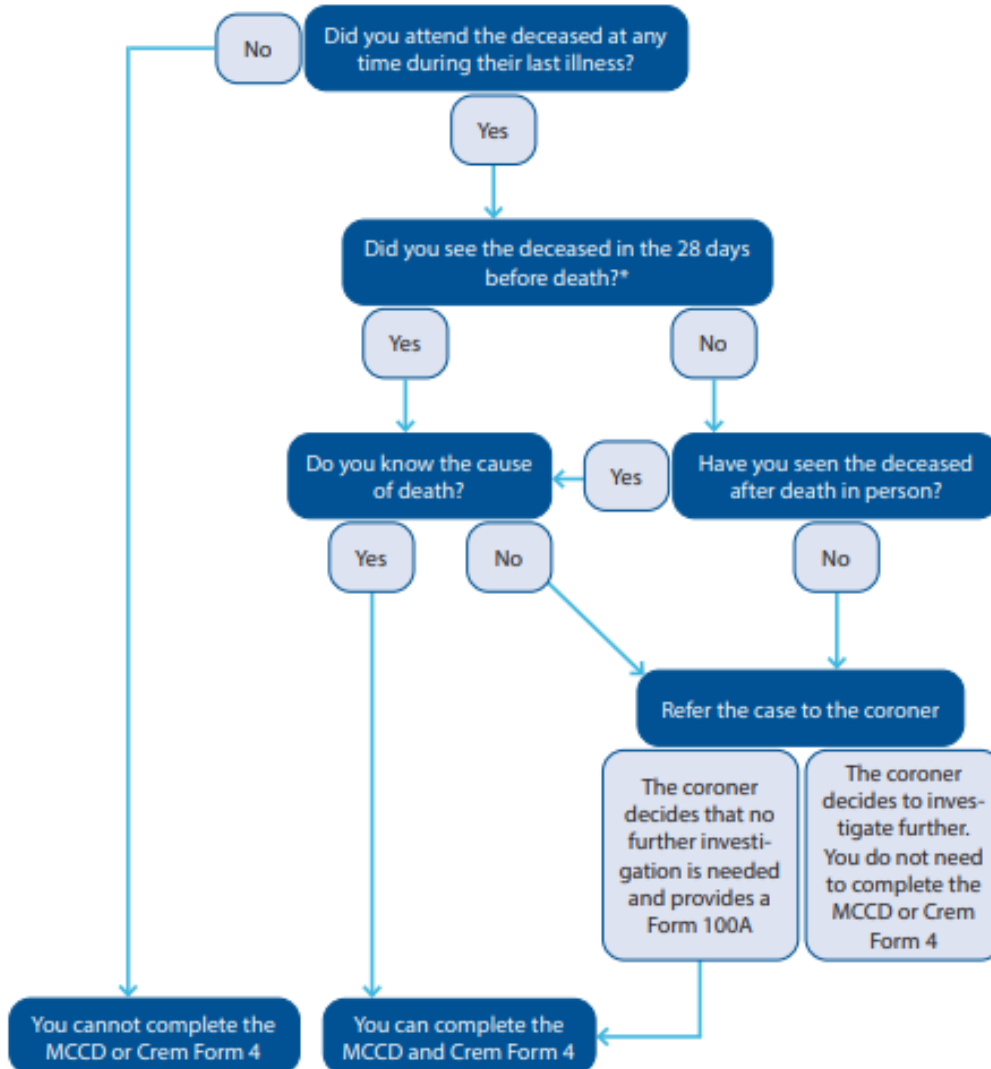
You also wish to refer to the Royal College of Pathologist's Flow Chart (attached)



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Completing a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death: process from 25 March 2022



*Video acceptable, phone/audio only not acceptable.