

# The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019

Sheffield  
LMC



## GUIDANCE FOR SHEFFIELD GPs November 2022

In the September 2019 LMC Newsletter, we noted that the Government had announced new legislation - [The Notification of Deaths Regulations 2019](#) took effect from 1 October 2019.

There is an expectation that deaths are reported in writing, with oral notification only being permitted in exceptional circumstances. An online referral system has been introduced whereby the completed [referral template](#) is sent to the Coroners Office via secure email.

The Ministry of Justice issued guidance on the new legislation in October 2019. This was subsequently updated in March 2020 and [March 2022](#), in view of specific provisions in the Coronavirus Act 2020.

IN SUMMARY:

### The notification requirement

1. Even if a relative has reported a death to the coroner, a Medical Practitioner still needs to do so.
2. This should be in writing as soon as possible after death.
3. Oral notification is acceptable in rare circumstances and should be followed up with written notification.
4. Notification includes next of kin details.

### Circumstances in which a notification should be made under regulation 3

Where death was due to:

1. Poisoning including by an otherwise benign substance.
2. Exposure to, or contact with a toxic substance.
3. The use of a medicinal product, the use of a controlled drug or psychoactive substance.
4. Violence, trauma or injury.
5. Self-harm.
6. Neglect, including self-neglect.
7. A person undergoing any treatment or procedure of a medical or similar nature.
8. An injury or disease attributable to any employment held by the person during the person's lifetime.

Where death is:

9. Unnatural, but does not fall within any of the above circumstances.
10. Of unknown cause.
11. Suspected by the registered medical practitioner to have occurred while the person was in custody or otherwise in state detention.

If:

12. There was no attending registered medical practitioner, and there is no other registered medical practitioner to sign a medical certificate cause of death in relation to the deceased person.
13. The attending medical practitioner is not available within a reasonable time of the person's death to sign the certificate of cause of death.
14. The identity of the deceased person is unknown.