

Information for the recently bereaved about the new Medical Examiner system in primary care

There is a website giving a wealth of information and support for the seriously ill and the recently bereaved in Leicestershire and Rutland. Go to:
<https://www.dyingmattersleicestershireandrutland.com/> .

All deaths of patients registered at our practice are discussed with one of our Medical Examiners to agree the cause of death and whether a death requires referring to the Coroner. This is a new service, currently being implemented across England and Wales. Ours is one of the first practices to participate in this scheme and your feedback will be very welcome.

Medical Examiners are independent senior doctors who have had additional training to take on this work.

Your GP will speak to a medical examiner to discuss whether the Coroner needs to be informed about the death and, if not, what should be put on the death certificate as the cause of death. The medical examiner will also look at the electronic medical record to check that this is all correct.

Where a death has not been referred to the Coroner, the Medical Examiner will aim to speak with the next of kin (or their chosen person) by telephone, to explain the cause of death and answer any questions they may have.

The law does not give you the right to reject the doctor's opinion on the cause of death, but the views of the bereaved are an important part of this process

In order to make sure that the NHS learns from patients and families' experiences of care, a medical examiner will also ask about the care your loved one received, good or bad. Your opinions may be passed back to the members of staff concerned so that lessons can be learned. The outcomes from any subsequent formal review of care can be shared with the next of kin, although in some circumstances reviews can take months to complete.

Not all families will be contacted by a medical examiner but if you feel this is important to you, or if you have questions or concerns related to your loved one's End of Life Care, please contact the practice. Your name and telephone number(s) will be passed on to a medical examiner, who will then call you.

Here is a direct link to more information about Medical Examiners and registration of deaths, on the 'Dying Matters' (Leicestershire and Rutland) website:

<https://www.dyingmattersleicestershireandrutland.com/after-a-loss>