

# Glasgow Local Medical Committee Limited

Scottish Company Reg No: 410734  
(General Practice)

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23rd June 2014

Dear Colleagues,

## THE NEW MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH (MCCD)

GPs need to be aware that from 6th August 2014, there will be a new “Death Certificate” or Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD). There is a local implementation group that has been set up with LMC and practice manager representation.

**This is extremely important information for all GPs and practice managers. Please ensure that all doctors and key practice staff are aware.**

## Background

The Certification of Death (Scotland) Act 2011 was introduced with the aims of:

- Introduction a single system of independent, effective scrutiny to deaths that do not require a PF investigation
- Improve the quality and accuracy of MCCD
- Provide improved public health information and strengthened clinical governance in relation to deaths
- Strengthen clinical governance in relation to deaths- through linkages between the new review system and Health Boards

## What you need to know

The format of the new MCCD (Form 11) will be finalised by Scottish Government in the coming week. Following final approval new MCCD books will be printed out and distributed across Scotland.

There will be a 2 Phase rollout-

- **6th August 2014**- the new MCCD will be used and accepted by Registrars. There will be a period of only 8 days where the old certificate will be accepted. The existing cremation forms process will continue until April 2015.
- **April 2015**- Cremation Forms will cease. A proposed electronic MCCD system for general practice will begin. This is being developed by NSS. Forms will be done online (possibly via SCI Gateway)

and printed out for the bereaved relative. Medical Reviewers will be Level 1 and Level 2 scrutiny process.

## **New MCCD (Form 11)**

2 pages long and split into 5 sections

- Section A
  - Details of the Deceased, date and time of death, Health Board area, CHI number
- Section B
  - Details of Certifying Doctor, GMC number, Business Telephone number
- Section C
  - Cause of Death, Parts I and II, similar to present certificate, and timescales
- Section D, Hazards
  - Yes/No answers to does body pose a risk to public health, is there a pacemaker or explosive device implanted, is there a radioactive or hazardous implant
- Section E, Additional Info
  - Post Mortem examination, Reported to the PF, Maternal death

## **Wednesday 6th August 2014**

Practices will need a stock of the new MCCD books ready in the practice. We will let practices know when the new paperwork will be ready to order.

The new paperwork should be used for all deaths certified after midnight on the evening of Tuesday 5th August 2014, i.e. all deaths dated 06/08/14.

Registrar's Offices will continue to accept the existing MCCD paperwork for only **8 days** following introduction. After that period any family/carer presenting at the Registrar's Office with the old paperwork will be advised that they need to return to the Certifying Doctor and request the new Form.

**The existing Cremation Forms B & C will continue to be required where applicable.** There will be no change to the existing process for cremations from August 2014 to April 2015.

## **From April 2015 onwards**

The new MCCD only should be completed for all deaths. **Cremation certificates will no longer be required.**

Scottish Government is developing an electronic system for MCCD that may be similar to the existing "eFit Notes" or SCI Gateway. A paper MCCD will still need to be printed for the bereaved relatives to register the death with the Registrar's Office.

The rule for PF notifications of deaths will be unchanged.

The new Medical Reviews will begin in April 2015. Medical Reviews of MCCDs will be random but reviews can be requested from "interested persons" e.g. the relatives or carers.

Led by a Senior Medical Reviewer, Medical Reviews will be carried by a team of Medical Reviewers who are from both primary and secondary care assisted by MR Assistants (MRAs). Certifying Doctors must make themselves available to the MR. However there is recognition that doctors are busy and that MRs and MRAs will be flexible to accommodate working patterns.

## **Level 1 Reviews**

10% of all MCCDs (approx. 5000 per annum). Timescale - within 1 working day.

Medical Reviewer will look at the MCCD and speak to the certifying doctor on the telephone. The MR may speak with other members of the practice team if they have access to patient records.

## **Level 2 Reviews**

Approximately 2% of all MCCDs. This is a comprehensive review with 3 working days.

A Level 1 review plus examination of patient records such as eKIS, PCS and ECS. The Medical Reviewer may ask the practice to send off a null Gateway referral for the past medical history. Medical Reviewers will strive to ask only for electronic records to avoid the need to chase up paper and the need to transport paper records around.

If any Review finds that a case should have been referred to the PF then that case will be passed to the PF. The status of the original MCCD will be determined by the PF.

## **Other Information**

- Faith groups' requirements have been looked at and there is a process for relatives to apply to expedite reviews (especially Level 2) so that burials can take place in reasonable time
- Information leaflets for family/carers currently being developed
- Online training modules to be developed
- From April 2015, it will be possible for a body to be cremated without the Certifying Doctor having viewed or examined the body
- An electronic referral process to the PF is being developed for April 2015

*Dr John Ip*  
*23rd June 2014*