**Death certification advisory note 20 April 2021**

Enquiries have been received about death certification for individuals who may recently have received COVID-19 vaccine.  The [Death Certification Review Service](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/governance_and_assurance/death_certification) advise that:

* Vaccination should not be included on the death certificate if the vaccination has not caused or contributed to the death to the best of the doctor’s knowledge and belief
* Thus far, the vaccine appears to have a good safety profile and whilst DCRS has had one or two enquiries, there have been no cases reviewed by DCRS where the doctor was confident of a causal relationship between administration of the vaccine and a patient’s death
* Where there are concerns about potential side effects or efficacy of the vaccine, this should be reported to the MHRA using the [Yellow card Scheme](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/)
* Should there be an instance where vaccination is believed to have caused or contributed to the death, this would be reportable to the Procurator Fiscal as an adverse drug reaction.
* If advice is required from the [Death Certification Review Service](http://www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/our_work/governance_and_assurance/death_certification) team the service is 0830 to 1730 Monday to Friday ([dcrs@nhs24.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:dcrs@nhs24.scot.nhs.uk); 03001231898)