

Whether or not a death in ED needs to be referred to the coroner

...or whether advice from the Medical Examiner can resolve a cause of death such that an MCCD can be issued

The previous requirement to refer any death “at less than 24hrs of hospital admission” no longer applies. Previously, this resulted in all deaths in ED being referred to the coroner, even if a cause of death was known.

The Medical Examiner system is in place to offer scrutiny of all deaths that do not require referral to the coroner, and as such this is a likely source of advice to be able to resolve this question.

This flow-chart aims to guide clinicians in making the right decision when a patient dies, so that:

1. We can avoid unnecessary referrals to the coroner, which helps to minimise delays for bereaved families
2. We can ensure a smooth process of certification and registration, which allows bereaved families to gain closure on the death of their loved one.

Advice can be sought directly from the ME team via email (during office hours) medical.examiner@cht.nhs.uk

