

VERIFICATION OF LIFE EXTINCT FORM

Patient Name

Address

.....

.....

D.O.B

I, Dr

confirm that I 'Verified Life Extinct' on this patient on:

Date: athours.

Signed:

Date:

Print Name:

GUIDANCE NOTE

Neither English law nor your GMS contract: require a doctor to confirm that death has occurred or that “life is extinct”, require a doctor to view the body of a deceased person or report the fact that death has occurred (but none of these should be confused with the legal obligations that doctors do have to issue a death certificate for patients attended during their last illness).

That said, the police need written confirmation of death if cases are being referred to the Coroner. If the GP confirms death and does not provide written confirmation, the Police ask paramedics to also confirm the death, in writing. This is duplication of work and a drain on valuable ambulance service time, so the LMC is prepared to ask local GPs to complete a ‘life extinct’ note when confirming death.

The Coroner is aware that GPs are not obliged to confirm death and confirm it in writing, so the use of this form is voluntary and up to individual GPs. However, its use may help to save valuable resources for the sake of a minute’s work.

Complete the form and leave it with the family, to give to the police when they arrive (which will prevent them calling out the ambulance service to confirm death in writing).

Bro Taf LMC
6 August 2010