



Position Statement

Reporting deaths to the Coroner

Following the unilateral introduction of a PDF reporting form for unexpected deaths to the coroner towards the end of last year, several practices highlighted their concerns.

We had a very informative meeting with the Derbyshire Coroner, Robert Hunter last week.

He agreed that the old system of telephoning the coroner's office to report a death worked well on the whole. However, following a review, the Chief Coroner has insisted on there being an audit trail.

We discussed the increase in workload that this will generate but unfortunately it is a necessary evil which we cannot influence.

He is, however, happy to accept a standard template letter which largely pulls information from the practices' clinical systems, and we agreed what that information would be. This can then be emailed and we are assured that email is checked frequently. He has also agreed that rather than emailing a response to practices, the coroner or an officer would telephone a practice, preferably using an ex directory number for speed.

North Derbyshire CCG is currently developing templates for both clinical systems. I would hope that these can be shared across Derbyshire when completed.

Dr Kath Markus Chief Executive
26 January 2017

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:
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