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|  | Community Nursing STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE Confirmation of Death (Adults) by Registered Healthcare Professionals | Version | 1 (final) |
| | | Effective from | 15/11/2022 |
| | | Review date | November 2025 |
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| AIM | To provide guidance for Registered nursing staff in scope to undertake Confirmation of Death . |
| STATEMENT/ SCOPE | <p>NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde will support all Registered nursing staff to undertake the Confirmation of Death procedure as detailed in the NHS GG&C Confirmation of Death Policy, and in alignment with NHS Education for Scotland 'Guidance and supporting resources for practitioners undertaking the Confirmation of Death procedure in Scotland'.</p> <p>The procedure applies to the death of any person registered with a General Practitioner in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and where relevant on a District Nursing caseload.</p> <p>Resources: http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/atafter-death/confirmation-of-death/ https://www.palliativecareggc.org.uk/cod</p> |
| REQUIREMENTS | <p>Registered nurses must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be registered with the NMC. • Have accessed the GG&C Policy. • Have read and understood NES guidance as detailed above. • Have undertaken the LearnPro module. • Complete the self-assessment element of the competency framework. • Have access to pocket cards detailing the clinical process. • Be aware of access to Confirmation of Death Recording Template. • Know how to communicate completed template to GP practice (via GP email boxes). • Maintain knowledge and skills needed for safe and effective practice. • Ensure skills and knowledge are up to date and relevant to their scope of practice through annual appraisal system. • Are confident and competent to undertake the Confirmation of Death procedure. • Have access to operational and professional support should concerns arise. <p>The patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be registered with a GP within NHS GGC, and on a District Nursing caseload, where relevant. |

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| | <p>Confirmation of death should not be undertaken in the following circumstances in accordance with guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime scenes or other circumstances considered suspicious • Hazards to staff i.e. known Blood Borne Viruses/Radioactivity etc. <p>Should the nurse have any concerns in relation to the circumstances or context of death, they should:</p> <p>Stop and seek guidance and discuss the issues of concern with a senior colleague or a medical practitioner. Police attendance may be required to provide support and advice.</p> |
| REFERRAL | <p>Referral procedure to nursing staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP/relevant HCP (or referral via residential Care Home/family if person currently on DN caseload and known to them) to contact nursing staff to request Confirmation of Death in accordance with local process including Single Point of Access or OOH hub. • Nursing staff should be made aware if there are any infection risks and follow appropriate GGC IPC policies and guidelines. |
| PROCEDURE | <p>The cessation of circulatory, respiratory systems and cerebral function are recognised clinical signs to diagnose death and must be confirmed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please complete the interventions in line with NHS GGC Confirmation of Death (CoD) recording template. 2. Stop and remove parenteral drug administration equipment, such as a syringe pump. In addition, other equipment such as catheters, nasogastric tubes should also be removed after confirmation of the death, unless religious belief directs otherwise. See Spiritual Care A multi-faith resource for healthcare staff. 3. In all cases of non-reportable death the medical practitioner should provide a medical certificate of the cause of death (MCCD) within 24 hours of the patient's death, except at weekends and bank holidays when the certificate would normally be completed on the next working day. 4. Leave a completed copy of the CoD template in the deceased person's home for the Funeral Director. 5. Arrange to communicate the completed CoD template to GP via clinical email box in accordance with GG&C policy. |

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| | <p>Following confirmation of death, the attendant nurse may assist with care of the deceased including family members if relevant. It is good practice for two members of staff to attend however, this decision can be influenced by the clinical judgement of the nurse and the individual circumstances.</p> <p>For further information on other appropriate actions during Confirmation of Death, for example, care of the deceased and communicating with/providing support for those recently bereaved, please refer to the guidance and NHS GGC Policy and Procedure for Confirmation of Death by Registered Healthcare Professionals.</p> |
| ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS | <p>This SOP applies to registered nurses other registered professional groups may develop specific SOPs for their services to sit alongside the Policy and Procedure for Confirmation of Death by Registered Healthcare Professionals.</p> |