

Appendix 2: Mortality Governance National and Statutory Guidance

	England	Wales	N. Ireland	Scotland
Child Death Review Guidance	Child Death Review Guidance England¹	Child Death Review - Public Health Wales²	-	HIS National Guidance when a child or young person dies³
Bereavement Support	Bereavement Pathways (England)⁴	wales/end-of-life-care⁵	Bereavement Guidance⁶	Bereavement Care Pathways (Scotland)⁷
			Bereavement network⁸	
Registration of Deaths	Death Registration⁹		Death Registration NI¹⁰	Death Registration Scot¹¹
Reporting Deaths	Notification of Death Regulations¹²		NI Coroner Referral¹³	Referral to Procurator Fiscal¹⁴
Medical Death Certificate	MCCD Regulations¹⁵		MCCD Guidance¹⁶	MCCD Guidance Scotland¹⁷
			Death Guidance¹⁸	HIS DCRS key resources¹⁹
				Death certification review²⁰
Medical Examiner	ME Guidance Eng & Wales²¹			
	ME England Regulations²²	ME Wales Regulations²³		
	RCPATH Good Practice Series ME and child death²⁴			
Unexpected Death	SUDIC Guidelines²⁵	PRUDiC Guidelines²⁶	SUDI Toolkit in draft: not currently available online	HIS SUDI Guidance²⁷
	BAPM SUPC Framework²⁸			
Organ Donation	Infant Organ and Tissue Donation²⁹			Infant Organ & Tissue Donation²⁷
				HIS Paed_Neo Organ Donation³⁰
Patient Incident Investigations	Patient Safety Incident Response Framework³¹	Patient Safety Incident Reporting³²	NIAIC adverse incident reporting ³³	HIS Reviewing and Learning from adverse events³⁴

UK requirements: verification of livebirths & deaths in babies^{35,36,37}

	England	Wales	Scotland	N. Ireland
Live birth (any gestation)	MCCD must be issued. Where this is not possible referral to HMC/PF			
Who can verify a live birth?	*Doctor	*Doctor	*Doctor or Attending Midwife	*Doctor
Who can verify death and issue an MCCD?	*Doctor			
**Live birth (any gestation), verification not done by doctor, baby subsequently dies	Refer to HMC		Doctor can issue MCCD if attending midwife confirms live-birth. If no attending midwife refer to PF	Refer to HMC
Miscarriage (less than 24 weeks gestation)	No legal certification or registration of death required			
Who can verify a miscarriage?	Doctor or Midwife			
**Miscarriage, referral HMC/PF	No referral to HMC (no jurisdiction for miscarriages)		No referral to PF unless potentially unnatural death	No referral to HMC (no jurisdiction for miscarriage)
Stillbirth (24 weeks gestation and over)	Legal requirement to register death as stillbirth			
Who can verify a stillbirth?	Doctor or Midwife			
**Stillbirth, referral HMC/PF	Refer to HMC/PF if in doubt regarding live birth or stillbirth			
	If stillbirth is established, HMC has no further jurisdiction for stillbirths		Refer to PF if unanticipated intrapartum stillbirth or potentially unnatural cause of death	Refer to HMC if capable of being born alive (potentially unnatural death)

**Live-birth/death verification can be done by an Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (ANNP) or other trained personnel within health care settings, but they cannot issue the MCCD.*

***Please also see individual country HMC/PF referral requirements*

England and Wales

Circumstances Requiring Notification to HMC, England & Wales¹²

A baby's death should always be notified to the coroner where there is reasonable cause to suspect that the death was due to (i.e. more than minimally, negligibly, or trivially caused by or contributed to by) any of the following:

- poisoning including by an otherwise benign substance;
- exposure to, or contact with a toxic substance;
- use of a medicinal product, the use of a controlled drug or psychoactive substance;
- violence, trauma or injury;
- neglect, including self-neglect.
- the person undergoing any treatment or procedure of a medical or similar nature;

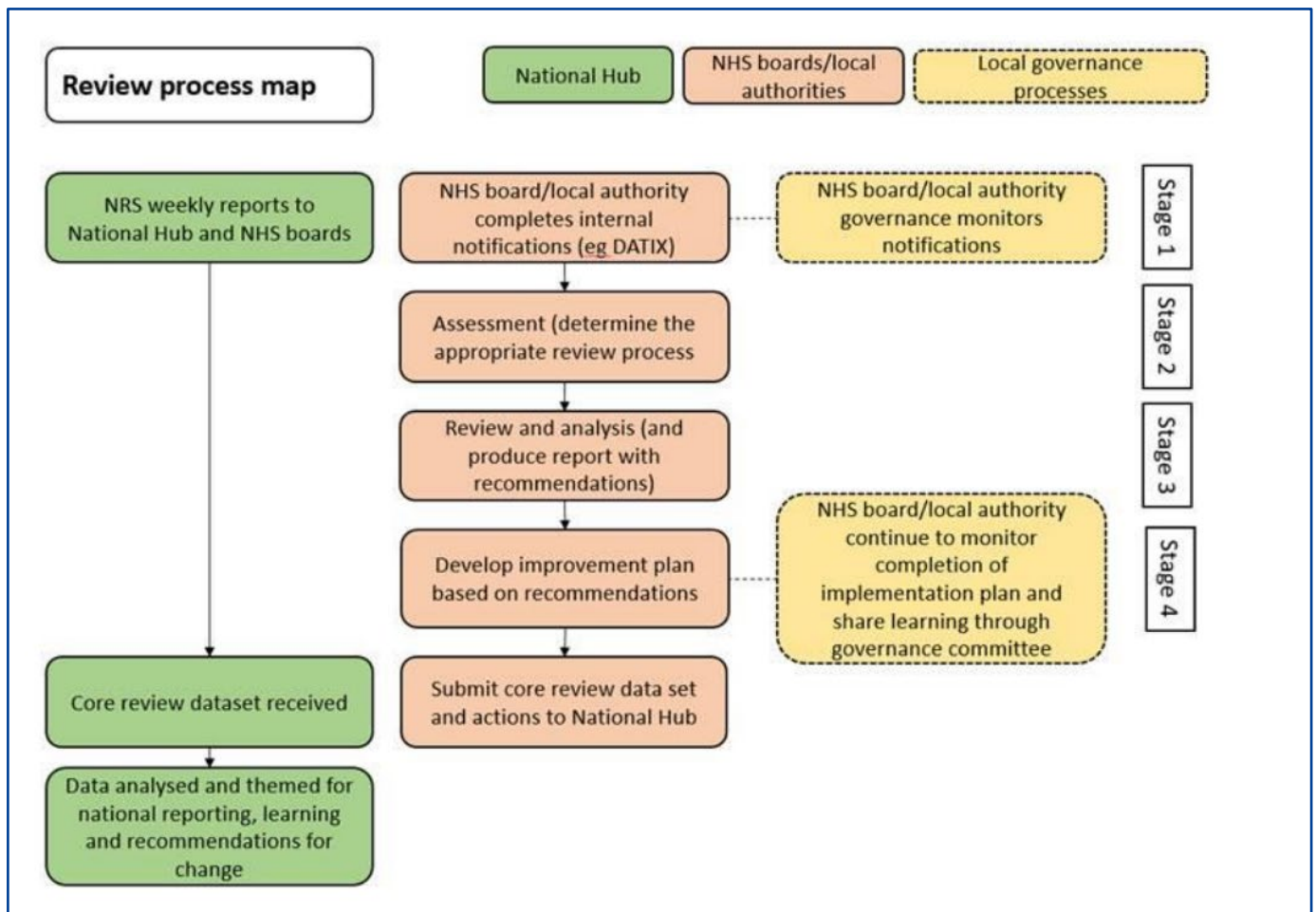
In addition, a person's death should always be notified to the coroner where:

- the registered medical practitioner suspects that the person's death was unnatural, but does not fall within any of the above circumstances;
- the cause of death is unknown;
- the registered medical practitioner suspects that the person died while in custody or otherwise in state detention;
- there is no attending practitioner, or an attending practitioner is not available within a reasonable time to sign a MCCD in relation to the deceased person; or
- the identity of the deceased person is unknown.

Also see above table on UK requirements for verification of livebirths and deaths in babies.

Scotland

Reviewing and Learning from the Deaths of Children³



Circumstances Requiring Referral to Procurator Fiscal (Scotland)¹⁴

The following deaths must be reported to the Procurator Fiscal ('reportable deaths'):

Unnatural cause of death:

Any death which cannot be entirely attributed to natural causes (whether the primary cause or a contributing factor) including:

- Suspicious deaths – i.e. where homicide cannot be ruled out
- Drug related deaths - including deaths due to adverse drug reactions reportable under the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) (Yellow Card Scheme)
- Accidental deaths (including those resulting from falls)
- Deaths resulting from an accident in the course of employment
- Deaths of children from overlaying or suffocation
- Deaths where the circumstances indicate the possibility of suicide

Natural cause of death:

Deaths which may be due in whole or part to natural causes but occur in the following circumstances:

- (a) Any death due to natural causes where the cause of death cannot be identified by a medical practitioner to the best of his or her knowledge and belief
- (b) Deaths as a result of neglect/fault

Any death:

- which may be related to a suggestion of neglect (including self neglect) or exposure
- where there is an allegation or possibility of fault on the part of another person, body or organisation

- (c) Deaths of children

Any death of a child:

- which is a sudden, unexpected and unexplained perinatal death
- where the body of a newborn is found
- where the death may be categorised as a Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)
- which arises following a concealed pregnancy

Any death of a child or young person under the age of eighteen years who is 'looked after' by a local authority, including:

- a child whose name is on the Child Protection Register
- a child who is subject to a supervision requirement made by a Children's Hearing
- a child who is subject to an order, authorisation or warrant made by a Court or Children's Hearing (e.g. a child being accommodated by a local authority in foster care, kinship care, residential accommodation or secure accommodation)
- a child who is otherwise being accommodated by a local authority

- (d) Deaths from notifiable industrial/infectious diseases

Any death:

- due to a notifiable industrial disease or disease acquired as a consequence of the deceased's occupation in terms of column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1995/3163/schedule/3/made> and Section 10 of this guidance)
- which poses an acute and serious risk to public health due to either a Notifiable Infectious Disease or Organism in terms of Schedule 1 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008 (see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2008/5/schedule/1>) or any other infectious disease or syndrome,

- (e) Deaths under medical or dental care (see full guidance for details)

Any death:

- the circumstances of which are the subject of concern to, or complaint by, the nearest relatives of the deceased about the medical treatment given to the deceased with a suggestion that the medical treatment may have contributed to the death of the patient.
- the circumstances of which might indicate fault or neglect on the part of medical staff or where medical staff have concerns regarding the circumstances of death
- the circumstances of which indicate that the failure of a piece of equipment may have caused or contributed to the death
- the circumstances of which are likely to be subject to an Adverse Event Review (as defined by Healthcare Improvement Scotland)
- where, at any time, a death certificate has been issued and a complaint is later received by a doctor or by the Health Board, which suggests that an act or omission by medical staff caused or contributed to the death
- caused by the withdrawal of life sustaining treatment or other medical treatment to a patient in a permanent vegetative state (whether with or without the authority of the Court of Session). (See Section 13 below)
- which occurs in circumstances raising issues of public safety.

Deaths while subject to compulsory treatment under mental health legislation and deaths in legal custody (see full guidance).

Northern Ireland

Circumstances Requiring Referral to HMC, N Ireland¹³

A death is reported to a Coroner in the following situations:

- a doctor did not treat the person during their last illness
- a doctor did not see or treat the person for the condition from which they died within 28 days of death
- the cause of death was sudden, violent or unnatural such as an accident, or suicide
- the cause of death was murder
- the cause of death was an industrial disease of the lungs such as asbestosis
- the death occurred in any other circumstances that may require investigation

A death in hospital should be reported if:

- there is a question of negligence or misadventure about the treatment of the person who died
- they died before a provisional diagnosis was made and the general practitioner is not willing to certify the cause
- the patient died as the result of the administration of an anaesthetic

A death should be reported to a Coroner by the police, when:

- a dead body is found
- death is unexpected or unexplained
- a death occurs in suspicious circumstances

Also see above table on UK requirements for verification of livebirths and deaths in babies.

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