

Welcome to the East Kent Medical Examiners Service

Who are Medical Examiners?

Medical examiners are part of a national network of specifically trained independent senior doctors (from any specialty). Overseen by a National Medical Examiner, they scrutinise all deaths that do not fall under the coroner's jurisdiction across a local area.

Currently the system is non-statutory but as outlined in The Health and Care White Paper (<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-of-health-and-care>) the plan is for the medical examiner system to become statutory but it is anticipated that the non-statutory medical examiner system will continue throughout the 2021/22 financial year whilst parliamentary procedure is followed.

Although the offices are hosted by acute trusts, they are independent bodies, they are centrally funded and line management is through regional and national medical examiner offices.

Why have they been set up?

As a result of recommendations from a number of key enquiries (Dr Harold Shipman, Mid Staffordshire Hospitals) to provide greater scrutiny of deaths in England and Wales (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/establishing-medical-examiner-system-nhs/>). The system also offers a point of contact for bereaved families to raise concerns about the care provided prior to the death of a loved one.

What is the role of Medical Examiner Officers?

Medical Examiners (MEs) are supported by Medical Examiner Officers (MEOs) who work directly for them and assist them in the running of cases. Medical Examiner Officers are also trained and accredited and can be delegated tasks such as speaking to the parent team and speaking to the bereaved, with MEs on hand should there be any questions that the MEO feels unable to answer.

The East Kent Service

We have offices at the three main acute sites, QEQM, WHH and Kent and Canterbury Hospitals. The service was established in April 2020 now scrutinises all non-coronial hospital deaths including neonatal and paediatric deaths. Since May we have been scrutinising Community Hospital deaths and will be extending the service to the hospices in June and Primary Care thereafter.

The Team

Medical Examiner Officers

Stacey Brown (Lead MEO)	William Harvey Hospital	07812 506016
Stephen Mumford	Kent & Canterbury Hospital	07812 507019
Rosalind Andrews	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	07812 507026
Rachel Partridge	Kent & Canterbury	Rachel.partridge@nhs.net
Lisa Smith	William Harvey Hospital	Lisa.smith79@nhs.net

Email: ekhuft.medicalexaminerofficers@nhs.net

Medical Examiners

Dr Michelle Webb	William Harvey Hospital	Monday & Tuesday Afternoon	mwebb3@nhs.net	Renal Physician and Lead Medical Examiner
Dr Karla Allen	William Harvey Hospital	All day Wednesday	karla.allen1@nhs.net	GP
Mr Thomas Rix	William Harvey Hospital	Thursday Afternoon	thomasrix@nhs.net	Vascular surgeon
Dr Kojo Ndenecho	William Harvey Hospital	All day Friday	k.ndenecho@nhs.net	Forensic Medical Examiner
Dr Paul Stevens	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	Monday & Tuesday Afternoon	pstevens@nhs.net	Renal Physician
Dr Neil Goldsack	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	Wednesday Morning	neil.goldsack@nhs.net	Chest Physician
Dr Riyad Al-Karoudi	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	Thursday Afternoon	riyad.alkaroudi@nhs.net	Cardiologist
Dr Paul Gluckman	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital	Friday Afternoon	paul.gluckman1@nhs.net	Retired ENT Surgeon
Dr Ritoo Kapoor	Kent and Canterbury Hospital	Tuesday Afternoon	ritoo.kapoor@nhs.net	Intensivist

Any queries for the office please contact the MEO's as they are the constant and will be able to advice on ME availability. There will only ever be one MEO on leave at any one time so if you are unable to get through to one, please try either of the other two.

The Process Outside of the Acute Trusts

We have asked teams to identify who will be responsible for making contact with our service when a death occurs.

They will identify which doctor needs to complete the medical certificate of death (MCCD) and enter the patient demographics, designated contact for the next of kin and contact details for the doctor using our portal: <https://cdr.ekhuft.nhs.uk>. Please bookmark this in your browser.

Report a death
Please complete the form below to report a death within the community.

Patient Information
Please provide some initial information about the deceased.

Forenames

Surname

NHS Number

Gender
 Female Male

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Organisation Information
Please let us know which organisation is reporting the death.

Type of Organisation

GP Practice

Community Hospital

Hospice

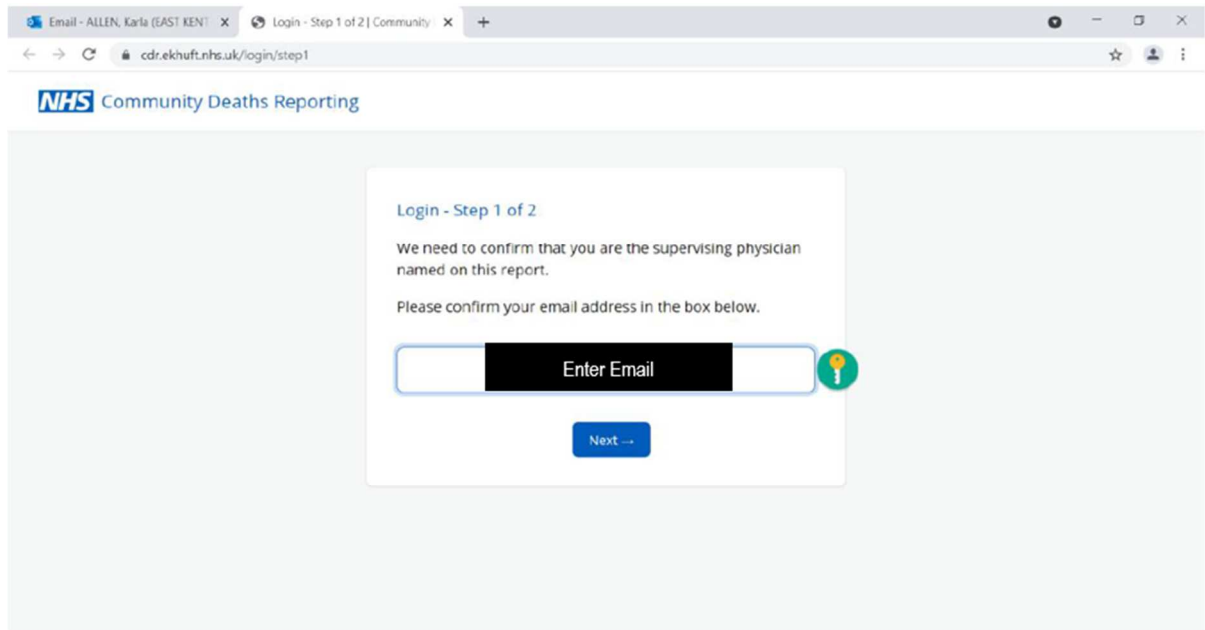
Supervising Clinician
Please provide contact details for the supervising clinician.

Email Address

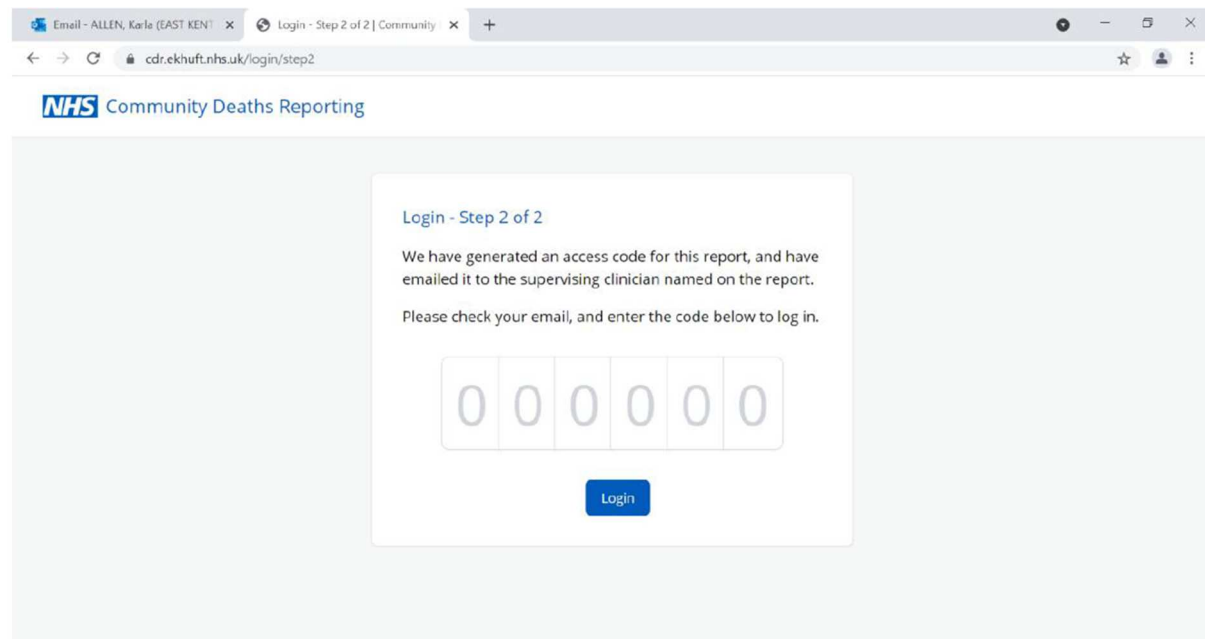
Please note, this must be an @nhs.net email address.

This will enter the death on to our workflow and will automatically generate an email to the designated doctor.

Screen 1:



Screen 2:



Screen 3:

NHS Community Deaths Reporting

Clinical Information

Please provide further information about the medical history of the deceased.

Patient Information
Please provide some initial information about the deceased.

Forenames	John	Surname	Test
NHS Number	0123456789	Patient Number	
Date of Birth	01/01/1951	Date of Death	19/05/2021
		Time of Death	--:--

Screen 4:

NHS Community Deaths Reporting

Clinical Information

Please provide further information about the medical history of the deceased.

Patient Information
Please provide some initial information about the deceased.

Forenames	John	Surname	Test
NHS Number	0123456789	Patient Number	
Date of Birth	01/01/1951	Date of Death	19/05/2021
		Time of Death	--:--

Doctors Decision
Please let us know which organisation is reporting the death.

I feel able to complete provision MKCD

I feel this case requires referral to the coronor for further action

Medical Synopsis
Please provide a synopsis of circumstances and medical history.

Notes

Screen 5:

Medical Synopsis
Please provide a synopsis of circumstances and medical history.

Notes

Cause of Death
Please provide a preliminary cause of death.

Cause of Death 1a

Cause of Death 1b

Cause of Death 1c

Cause of Death 2

Screen 6:

Cause of Death 1a

Cause of Death 1b

Cause of Death 1c

Cause of Death 2

Your Details
Please provide your contact details and GMC registration.

Name

GMC Number

Location
WHITSTABLE & TANKERTON HOSPITAL

Role

Phone

Bleep

I confirm that this submission is correct and complete.

Cancel Save & Complete

Screen 7:

NHS Community Deaths Reporting

Thank you
Your form has been submitted.

The doctor will be asked to provide a short medical summary along with their proposed cause of death. The Medical Examiner then reviews the notes of the patient. Following the establishment of data sharing agreements the MEs will have read only access to EMIS and Rio (Community Trust).

If they agree with the MCCD as proposed (the commonest scenario) the ME or MEO will ring the family and explain the MCCD, answer any questions and offer them the opportunity to comment on the care the bereaved had received. They will then email the designated doctor and give them the go ahead to issue the MCCD.

In cases of a difference in views as to cause of death the ME will make telephone contact with the doctor to discuss further and come to an agreement. Only then will the office contact the family.

If this is clearly an unnatural death please still refer directly to coroner rather than to our service.

Where GP's are unable to complete an MCCD because they have not seen the patient within the last 28 days please could these be sent to us, along with a likely cause of death (if the GP feels they can offer one). We will then identify whether there is someone else who could offer a cause of death eg patient recently discharged from acute trust, attending day case chemotherapy unit or dialysis, cared for by community hospital at home service. Where it becomes apparent no cause of death can be ascertained these will be directed to the coroner.

Any feedback we receive from families, including compliments, will be forwarded to the agreed point of contact within the service. In the case of GP surgeries this is usually the Practice Manager.

Any Further Questions?

Please contact either the lead ME or MEO:

Dr Michelle Webb, Lead Medical Examiner (mwebb3@nhs.net)

Stacey Brown, Lead Medical Examiner Officer (Stacey.brown21@nhs.net).