

## Further Information sources



The Royal College of Pathologists  
Pathology: the science behind the cure

### BACKGROUND TO MEDICAL EXAMINERS

A national network of medical examiners was recommended by the Shipman, Mid-Staffordshire and Morecambe Bay public inquiries. The College campaigned for their implementation and continues to play a key role in influencing government's work around implementation of the service.

As the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, the College provides [medical examiner training](#), information on [setting up a medical examiner system](#) and advice on [how to become a medical examiner](#).

### EXTENDING MEDICAL EXAMINER SCRUTINY TO NON-ACUTE SETTINGS

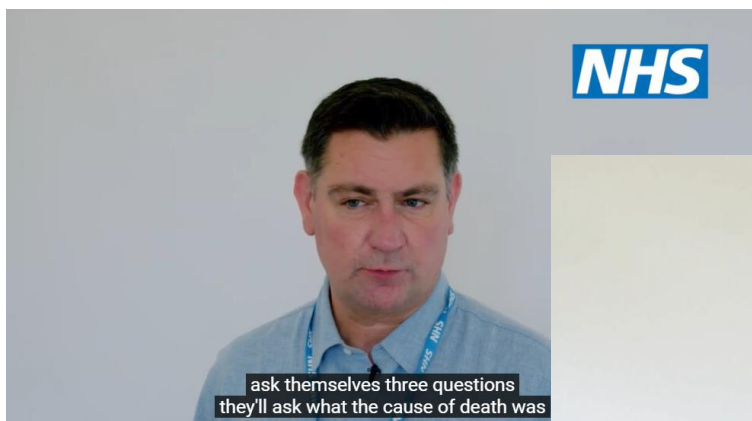
We welcome [the roll out of the medical examiner system](#) to cover deaths in non-acute and community settings.

It is another important step towards creating a world-leading system of death investigation and patient safety improvement, with every death in England and Wales that is not reported to a Coroner being scrutinised by an independent medical examiner.

Crucially it will also give all bereaved families the opportunity to ask questions or raise concerns about the care of a loved one.

<https://www.rcpath.org/discover-pathology/public-affairs/medical-examiners.html>

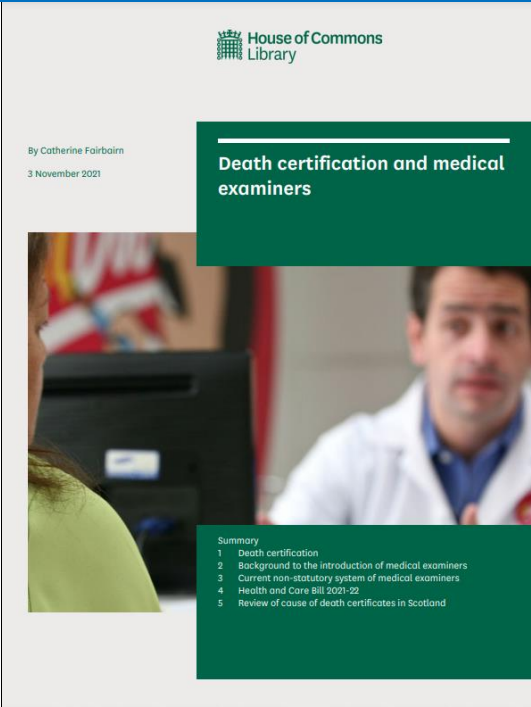
'What do Medical Officers do?' (Video of GPs and MEs talking about the benefits of the ME scrutiny system)



<https://youtu.be/ClkmdLP7ZBO>

## Further Information sources

### [Death certification and medical examiners - House of Commons Library \(parliament.uk\)](https://parliament.uk)

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## NHSE Links and documents

[NHS England » Information for non-acute NHS trusts on extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-coronial deaths in the community](#)

[NHS England » Information for primary care on extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-coronial deaths in the community](#)

[NHS England » System letter: Extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-acute settings](#) (contains flow-charts at ANNEXES A & B)

[NHS England » The national medical examiner system](#)

*The stated purpose of the medical examiner system is to:*

*provide greater safeguards for the public by ensuring proper scrutiny of all non-coronial deaths*

*ensure the appropriate direction of deaths to the coroner*

*provide a better service for the bereaved and an opportunity for them to raise any concerns to a doctor not involved in the care of the deceased*

*improve the quality of death certification*

*improve the quality of mortality data.*