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 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.

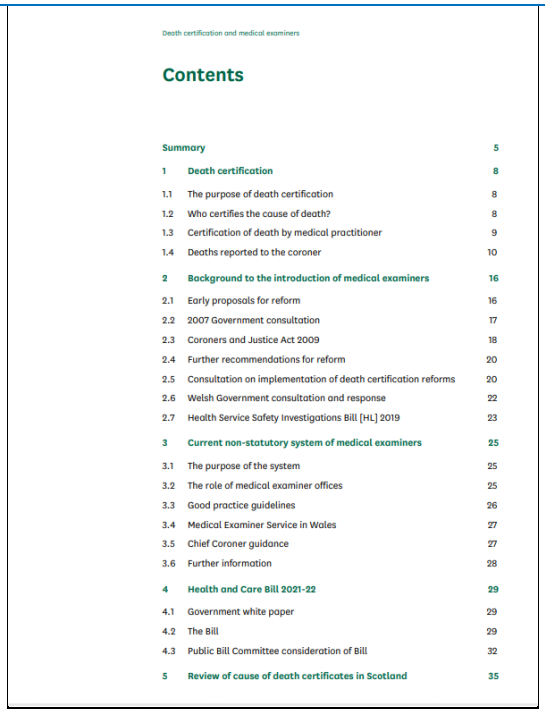
https://www.rcpath.org/discover-pathology/public-affairs/medical-examiners.html

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

https://youtu.be/CIkmdLP7ZB0

Further Information sources

[Death certification and medical examiners - House of Commons Library (parliament.uk)]


Death certification and medical examiners

Contents

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.