MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

The condition thought to be the ‘Underlying Cause of Death’ should appear in the lowest completed line of Part I.

I (a) Disease or condition directly leading to death* ..............................................................
(b) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I(a) ..............................................................
(c) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I(b) ..............................................................
(d) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to I(c) ..............................................................

II Other significant conditions CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEATH ..............................................................

but not related to the disease or condition causing it ..............................................................

*This means the disease or condition that caused death (if an injury or complication, authorised by a coroner); do not record terminal events (e.g. cardiac or respiratory arrest, shock) as the only cause of death.

For a woman, was the deceased pregnant or recently pregnant? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

☐ At time of death
☐ Between 43 days up to 1 year before death

Did the pregnancy contribute to the death? □ Yes □ No □ Unknown

I hereby certify that I am a duly appointed medical examiner, that I have completed this certificate following referral of the death by a coroner and independent and proportionate scrutiny of available information and that the particulars and cause of death given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Name (print) .............................................................. GMC No. ..............................................................

Signature .............................................................. Date ..............................................................
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF CAUSE OF DEATH

What is this form?
This form shows the cause of death that has been certified by an independent medical examiner following referral from a coroner. It has been given to you so that you can use it to arrange for the death to be registered.

It has been necessary for a medical examiner to certify the death because the person named on the certificate was not attended by a doctor during the last illness or because the attending doctor was not available to certify the death.

Before certifying the cause of death, the medical examiner, or someone acting on behalf of the medical examiner, will have spoken with you, or with another person who is qualified to register the death, to answer questions about the cause and to allow any concerns to be raised that might require the medical examiner to make further enquiries or the death to be investigated by a coroner.

Who can register the death?
One of the people listed below should register the death within five days of the date on which the cause was certified by the medical examiner (see date given overleaf).

This list is given in order of preference.

- Any relative or partner of the deceased who has knowledge of the information required for registration, or
- any personal representative of the deceased, or
- a person present at the death, or
- an occupant of the house, or an official from the hospital, or the person arranging the burial or cremation, or, if the death did not occur in a house or hospital, the person who found or took charge of the body.

Where to register the death
The form should be taken to the register office shown below. Most register offices ask you to telephone to make an appointment so that a registrar is available when you visit. If you are unable to arrange for an appropriate person to register the death within five days, please call the registrar for advice.

What will the registrar ask?
The person who registers the death will be asked to provide the following information about the deceased.

1. Full forename and family name (and maiden name if applicable)
2. Date and place of birth
3. Date and place of death
4. Usual address
5. Occupation
6. Whether the deceased was in receipt of a pension or allowance from public funds
7. If applicable – the name, date of birth and occupation of any surviving spouse or civil partner

Requirements for registration
A registrar can only register the death and/or provide a certificate for burial, cremation or other means of disposal after:

- This certificate has been taken to the register office and a medical examiner has notified the registrar of the confirmed cause of death shown on the certificate.
- A person who is able to register the death has provided a signature to confirm that the cause of death has been discussed with a medical examiner.

It would be helpful if the person with whom the medical examiner discussed the cause of death could either register the death or attend the register office with the person who will register the death. If this is not possible, the person who registers the death should be told about the discussion with the medical examiner so that s/he can provide the signature mentioned above.

If the person who registers the death raises any concerns that have not been discussed with a medical examiner, the registrar will need to speak with the medical examiner or refer the death to a coroner.

After registration
Once the death has been registered, the registrar will keep this form and will give you a Death Certificate, which is usually required to settle the deceased person’s estate.

The registrar will also provide a certificate for burial, cremation or other means of disposal. This certificate will need to be given to the cemetery, crematorium or a funeral director, if used, with an appropriate application and, for cremations, with evidence that any implants or medical devices have been removed.

Note to issuer: Please attach a label with the address and telephone number of the register office in the district where the death occurred.