

Newcastle & North Tyneside Local Medical Committee

Completion of Cremation Forms

Introduction

The LMC has recently met representatives of the funeral directors to discuss the completion of cremation forms in a timely manner. The issue tends to be around when the GP has not confirmed the death of the deceased, as this has been done by a third-party, and the deceased has been moved to the funeral directors.

The most problematic times seem to be after weekends and bank holidays, as sometimes there is struggle to get cremation forms completed in a timely manner following these periods when general practice is closed.

The following is some of the principles that we have agreed:

Part 1 Signatures:

- 1 The deceased's GP will be contacted by the funeral director as soon as practicably possible;
- 2 The funeral director will inform the GP where the deceased is;
- 3 The GP who is completing Part 1 will travel to the place where the deceased is and complete Part 1 of the cremation form;
- 4 If the deceased has been removed to a funeral directors further afield, for example more than five miles away, then arrangements can be made for the deceased to be brought to a funeral directors nearer the practice. Of course it would be wise to inform relatives who may be wanting to view their deceased relative.
- 5 On completion of Part 1 of the cremation form, the form will be left with the deceased and the funeral director will be informed of whom the Part 2 GP will be.

Part 2 Signatures:

- 1 The GP completing Part 2 will travel to where the deceased is;
- 2 If the deceased is lying outwith a reasonable travel area, as above, then the funeral director will suggest a local GP who can be contacted to complete Part 2.

We would hope that all cremations forms are completed in a timely manner, as best as possible given the circumstances, as delays to families do cause some concerns at times. In all cases, if there is difficulty, a conversation must be had with the funeral director who will try his/her best to accommodate the GP, if at all possible.