

# Verification of death May 2020



The Department of Health and Social Care has provided [guidance](#) designed to clarify existing practice for the verification of death outside of hospitals. The guidance also aims to provide a framework for safe verification of death in this coronavirus emergency period. It is to be applied in all cases outside hospital when verification of death may be completed by people who have been trained to do so in line with their employer's policies.

Crucially, it states: "Non-medical professionals should not experience any pressure to verify deaths. If they are not comfortable or equipped to verify, they should defer to medical colleagues or refer on to NHS 111, the patient's general practice or another provider of primary medical services. If they are content to verify, they can use remote clinical support."

SAIF encourages all members to read the guidance carefully and take any necessary measures they feel are appropriate for their teams.

## Web link:

- Dept of Health & Social Care guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-verification-of-death-in-times-of-emergency>