**Commencement deadline for the statutory Medical Examiner (ME) Service – 9 September 2024**

Following the announcement by the [Department of Health and Social Care ,](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Fcauses-of-death-to-be-scrutinised-in-revamp-of-death-certificates%3Futm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dgovuk-notifications-topic%26utm_source%3Dbb3d49a6-687a-4746-8142-d84244bc44eb%26utm_content%3Dimmediately&data=05%7C02%7Cnbn-tr.medicalexaminer%40nhs.net%7C7040beb63e0545d88a8908dc5d7c05f6%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638488034492150799%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5dA9tujDR%2BhhNiqxXavOT%2BBwPdiG603bQpsK7GiWjPM%3D&reserved=0) regulations for the [Death Certification Reforms](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fcollections%2Fdeath-certification-reform-and-the-introduction-of-medical-examiners&data=05%7C02%7Cnbn-tr.medicalexaminer%40nhs.net%7C7040beb63e0545d88a8908dc5d7c05f6%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638488034492139698%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LdjtAzaqakfLYzWyM%2FYUl2O67dbVLLEwz3JziKCHEjA%3D&reserved=0) have been laid in Parliament. The legislation will come into force on **Monday 9 September 2024** meaning independent scrutiny by a Medical Examiner will become a statutory requirement prior to the registration of all non-coronial deaths in England and Wales. After this date MCCDs that have not been subject to ME scrutiny will be rejected by the Register Office.

It is appreciated that this is a significant change for GPs and, as we continue with this transition stage, practices are strongly encouraged to engage with the BNSSG ME Service to become familiar with the process. This will ensure that any teething problems can be resolved to minimise the risk of delays for the bereaved. Once practices have been onboarded, GPs can start referring to the ME Service at any time prior to the commencement deadline.

Figure 1 Timeline of Introductory and Onboarding Process

All practices should have received an email from the ME Service and arranged an introductory meeting. If you have not heard anything or have any queries, please contact the ME service on the details below:

Queries (including regarding individual cases):

T: 0117 4140074 E: nbn-tr.medicalexaminer@nhs.net

General queries please join the Medical Examiner Team on MS Teams for the Medical Examiner Service Drop-in Clinic – every Wednesday from 1 to 2 pm

Meeting ID: 361 186 755 357 Passcode: 8Crm3k