

07.03.2019

RE: End of Life Sols

Dear Jane

Thank you for your email - we should have completed the statement of intent ourselves at Hospital rather than call a GP in to do that so I'm sorry that this happened and please pass on my apologies to the Doctors that were affected

Doctors in primary care have for some time been able to issue Statement of Intent forms (a statement of intent to be able to issue a medical certificate for cause of death (MCCD) in circumstances where a death is expected and not reportable to the Coroner). This is an important component of good end of life care, as it ensures that families are able to liaise with their chosen funeral director without intervention by the police or the Coroner's Office. This reduces distress for families at a very difficult time.

The hospitals across the North East Sector of the Northern Care Alliance to introduced a hospital Statement of Intent form on the 1st March 2019 in order to further improve the care for the families of patients being discharged home who are expected to die. This is aimed to improve the care we provide, but also to reduce the demand on General Practitioners for 'same day' visits on the day of patient discharge in order to complete the form.

While completion of the form by hospital doctors (ST3 Doctor or more senior) cannot be mandated, the Trust will encourage its senior staff to complete the Statement of Intent form wherever practical / possible. This approach should be respected, as many doctors will have conflicting clinical or other commitments which may mean they are unable to commit to being able to complete a MCCD within the timeframe specified.

The hospital Statement of Intent process will be monitored on an ongoing basis and feedback from doctors in both primary and secondary care is welcomed as part of this review process in order that further development can be planned.

We clearly need to improve the communication around this process and I will accordingly make sure I communicate more effectively with colleagues at all our Hospitals

Unfortunately I am in Birmingham on the 12th but please let me know if there any other questions or concerns I can deal with

Kind Regards

Matt

Matthew **Makin** MA MD FRCPE
Medical Director PAHT and North Manchester Care Organisation
Twitter @COSMakin
Mobile Telephone: 07785977713