

1. How to verify an expected death in COVID-19 time of emergency with clinical remote support

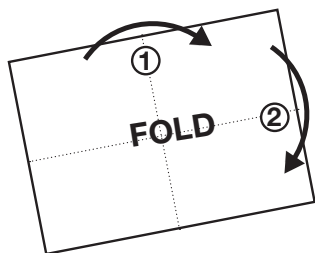
This process assumes that the person is expected to die and either the person or their representative has made and documented the decision about their end of life care, choosing not to receive CPR if they stop breathing.

Equipment Needed

Mobile phone with camera and torch, pen torch (optional), appropriate PPE* and a bag to dispose PPE

Gather together the person's end of life care plan and VOED paperwork including any advance care plan/DNACPR

*Disposable apron and gloves, fluid repellent surgical mask



2. Before

- If anyone is present, introduce yourself and ask who they are (it is important to document who was present at the time of death)
- Explain the need to verify if the person has died
- Offer the opportunity for the family to wait outside of the room and ask if they have any concerns or questions
- When you are ready, call the GP, NHS 111 or out of hours service
- Enter the room of the person, introduce yourself 'Hello Mr/Mrsmy name isI am your care worker'
- Confirm the identity of the person
- Look for any obvious signs of life, check skin colour, are they breathing?
- Try to ensure that the person is lying flat (It may not be possible to move them if rigor mortis has already set in)

3. During - with guidance from a clinician

Complete these actions for at least five minutes.

Check the person's pupils by shining the pen torch into the eyes. The pupils should not react to light and will appear black, fixed and dilated. Check there is no response to painful stimuli. If you squeeze the muscle between the neck and the shoulder (the trapezius), do they respond?

Check the chest wall movements for 3 minutes. Observe there is no breathing present and the chest is not rising or falling. Place one hand on the person's chest. There should be no breath sounds or movement. If a breath occurs, repeat the process.

Locate the carotid pulse on the person's neck to the side of the windpipe using your index and middle fingers. Check that the pulse is absent for at least one minute.

Wait 10 minutes and repeat the above actions, observing the person throughout



4. After verification

- ✓ Complete accurate records as required
- ✓ Ensure care of the deceased and care of the family
- ✓ Take care of yourself and others involved

This resource was commissioned by NHS England and NHS Improvement as part of the national Palliative and End of Life Care response to COVID-19