

Death Certification / Cremation 4

- Use the guidance in your information pack on how to complete a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) & Cremation form 4 for answering the exercises in parts A & B based on the cases below
- Part A requires you to complete the Cause of Death (I a),b) & c) II), the relevant illness duration and coroner involvement if needed for all the cases
- Part B requires you to complete a sample MCCD and Cremation Form 4 for some of the cases (*copies of sample MCCDs & Cremation Forms 4s are available from Jo Nichols OR PDF forms are printable from the Trinity website*)
- Answers are provided for Parts A & B to help you assess your performance
- *Unless stated otherwise, for the purpose of these exercises:*
 - Whatever the date in the case, the year is the current one
 - Use your own name
 - You are either an FY1 doctor or a Hospice doctor
 - Your qualifications are MB ChB
 - Your GMC number is 12345678
 - Your address is c/o whichever hospice/hospital you work in
 - The hospices are:

<p>Lucy House Hospice 1 River Am Road Borchester Borsetshire BO2 3GF; ☎: 01240 567234 <i>Consultant: Dr Belinda Bliss</i></p>	<p>St Stephen's Hospice Perchside Place Felpersham Borsetshire FX2 2DA ☎: 01240 487651 <i>Consultant: Dr Carmen Hope</i></p>
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 - The hospitals are:

<p>Borchester Royal Infirmary (BRI) Main Road Borchester Borsetshire BO1 1AA ☎: 01240 567987</p>	<p>The General Hospital (TGH) Walter Gabriel Way Felpersham Borsetshire FX3 4GG ☎: 01240 487563</p>
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Death Certification / Cremation 4: CASE HISTORIES

1. Shirley White 72yrs:

23 Herald Court, Penny Hassett, Borsetshire, AM6 7PJ. Retired cook

- Previously well, Shirley was diagnosed with inoperable, metastatic (*abdominal lymph nodes*) pancreatic cancer, on January 12th
- She had 2 cycles of palliative chemotherapy in BRI but this was stopped due to intolerable side effects
- She showed progressive deterioration with cachexia and weakness and was admitted to Lucy House Hospice on June 21 for end of life care, attended by her son John (*34, Tudor Way, Felpersham, FX2 1RZ. Mob: 08975123556*) who you helped to support until the last time you saw Shirley
- Shirley died peacefully at 6pm 3 days after admission, 2 hours after you last saw her alive, with John present
- You saw her body the next day at 10 am, an expected death with no concerns

2. John Green 79yrs:

41, Manor Road, Loxley Barrett, Borsetshire, AM4 2BG; Tel 01240 345756; retired taxi driver

- John lived with wife, June
- He was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma of left upper lung with hilar lymph node spread 18 months before he died
- He was stable after radiotherapy, 1 month after diagnosis
- In May he started to become frailer until he developed poor mobility in June and became chair bound in early July
- He was admitted on July 14th to Lucy House Hospice for assessment and possible physiotherapy, where you first meet
- Initially he did well, mobilising short distances and you planned discharge home with John and his wife for August 3rd
- On August 2nd, whilst you are chatting to June as John listens, he suddenly collapses, becoming breathless, clammy and cold and coughing up small amounts of blood; Sister Price comes to assist
- He dies peacefully within minutes with you all present, an expected death, that came quicker than anticipated with no concerns

3. Stephen Brown 48yrs:

Ambridge Court, 26 Downham Road, Hollerton, Borsetshire, HT6 9RD; Tel 06687223445; retired mechanic

- Stephen had paraplegia for 10 years following a motorcycle accident where he sustained a thoracic vertebral fracture
- Catheterised with frequent urinary tract infections, he had occasional hospital admissions with septicaemia
- He was regularly re-catheterised, the latest catheter being inserted 6 weeks prior to admission
- October 7th, he was admitted to BRI with another episode of septicaemia that had started 3 days previously
- Working for Dr Carpenter, you meet him 2 days later on the medical ward, take blood cultures and attend him thereafter
- Blood cultures quickly returned a positive result for *Escherichia coli*, however, he failed to respond to intravenous antibiotics because of bacterial resistance
- Nursed by Charge Nurse Peter Harris, Stephen died 6 days after admission, at 10pm with his mother Gloria (*The Laurels, Edgeley Lane, Ambridge, Borsetshire, AM1 3DS, Tel: 01240 345666*) present; she had given you a thank you card for all your help & support at 6pm before you went off shift.
- You go to see Stephen in the mortuary at 11am the next day, an expected death with no concerns

4. Margaret Pinkus 80yrs:

4, The Green, Ambridge, Borsetshire, AM1 7FT; Tel 01240 345632; retired shopkeeper

- Margaret lived alone, being a widow for 7 years
- Past medical history included type 2 diabetes for 25yrs treated with Metformin and Gliclazide; she had a myocardial infarction aged 67yrs (*leaving her with persisting mild heart failure*) and developed intermittent claudication aged 75yrs
- February 4th she developed an ischaemic right foot and delayed seeking advice until her GP was called by daughter, Gillian, (*23, Harbour Lane, Lakey Green, Borsetshire, AM3 6GY; Tel: 01240 343555*) on March 2nd, when Margaret was very unwell, feverish, lethargic and weak
- Working for Dr Clewland, you clerk her on her admission to BRI at 9pm the same day with gangrene in her right foot with associated cellulitis; her pyrexia persists and she becomes hypotensive and clammy
- You take blood cultures on admission and go off shift at 11pm
- In spite of IV antibiotics she dies 20 hours after admission with Staff Nurse Kathy Watson present & you see her at 1pm the next day
- Her daughter, Gillian, is devastated but is grateful for all the care her mother received
- One week later, blood cultures came back positive for *Staphylococcus aureus*

5. Jeanette Gold 55yrs:

23, Pudding Lane, Darrington, Borsetshire, AM7 0GH; Tel 01240 345777; Manager of Health Food Store

- Jeanette lived alone and was a previously very well, non-smoker, tee-total, health conscious person with no significant past medical or family history known and no known next of kin
- After collapsing at her shop, she was admitted to A&E, BRI at 4pm on April 10th with crushing, central chest; your team diagnose a myocardial infarction on investigation (ECG & bloods)
- 3 hours after admission she suffered a cardiac arrest and was pronounced dead at 7:30pm by your Consultant Dr Alison Smith, after an unsuccessful resuscitation that you also attended with Sister Emma Howe

6. Jack Silver 86yrs:

Lark Rise, Woodbine Lane, Danforth, Borseshire, FX5 2UU; Tel: 01240 345632; retired shopkeeper

- Jack lived with wife, Carol, in Danforth village but collapsed on October 8th during a dance at a family party in Borchester
- He had a previous history of ischaemic heart disease (6yrs) and atrial fibrillation (4yrs), had a pacemaker inserted in 2006 and on February 4th Mr Lipton, Consultant orthopaedic surgeon, BRI, had performed an elective right total hip replacement from which Jack made a full recovery
- Following the collapse, Jack suffered a prolonged cardiac arrest with a 'down time' of 20 mins
- He was admitted the same day to the ITU of BRI & ventilated but after 5 days he showed no higher cerebral function or response and was considered to have irreversible brain damage with a deep comatose state
- 2 days after admission he had developed bilateral pneumonia; 7days after admission the decision was made to turn off the ventilator but unexpectedly his breathing continued
- He was transferred to St Stephen's Hospice on October 16th and the deep coma continued with a persistent rattily chest plus fever
- You attended from October 18th until October 22nd when you went off duty at 6pm; you next see him 9am October 23rd
- You got to know Carol and son Tom (*Dove Cottage, Lark Rise, Danforth, Borseshire, FX5 4TY, Mob: 04468488229*) and daughter Alison Archer (*The Chimes, Fawcett Magna, Borseshire, GH4 OXF, Tel: 01240 459357*)
- Jack died at 02:00hrs, 7 days after his hospice admission with all his family present, an expected death with no concerns

7. Paul Grey 45yrs:

Amside Men's Hostel, 4 The High Street, Felpersham, Borseshire, FX8 0TY; Tel: 01240 487333; unemployed

- After 28yrs of substance and alcohol abuse, Paul had hepatitis C (15yrs) and because he continued to drink alcohol heavily could not have treatment for his Hepatitis C
- He was mostly homeless but had recently settled in a men's hostel
- He had no known family that could be contacted and no known close friends
- On September 20th, as a medical FY1 at TGH, working for Dr Lord, you admit him with jaundice, ascites and drowsiness following a history of binge drinking of alcohol
- Investigations and records show cirrhosis of the liver (10 yrs) and he is in hepatic failure
- In spite of paracentesis and supportive treatment, his general condition deteriorates and you see that he becomes comatose on September 25th, 2 hours before you go off shift at 6pm
- He is found dead in his bed by staff nurse Erica Halt, at 4am the following morning; no one had been with him
- You see him in the mortuary at noon the same day

8. Edith Black 75yrs:

The Perch Nursing Home, 24 Royal Crescent, Felpersham, Borseshire, FX3 6TT; Tel: 01240 487951; Housewife

- Edith was admitted to the nursing home in April following her difficulty to cope after her right sided, hemiplegic stroke
- On admission, her widowed daughter Jane Strickland (*Lavender House, Queen's Lane, Copley, Borseshire, FX10 8YY; Tel: 01240 486772*) said that although her mother's mobility was reduced, she was still transferring from bed to chair.
- Jane's job took her abroad and although there was no other family to visit Edith, Jane rang the nursing home almost every day and initially had face to face sessions with her mother on Skype
- After the first week, Jane began to sense something was wrong, her mother started to look withdrawn and then the nursing home staff said that Edith was doing well but did not want to have a Skype session with Jane because she was resting
- After 4 weeks, Jane returned early to find Edith was bedfast, looked malnourished and had developed multiple grade 4 pressure sores.
- Jane was upset and angry, got the GP out and he admitted Edith to TGH on May 4th
- Edith started to improve with the treatment she received but remained frail
- On May 30th, she developed a chesty cough and green sputum and CXR showed bilateral bronchopneumonia
- In spite of IV antibiotics, Edith's condition deteriorated and she died, with Jane present, on June 2nd at 02:30hrs
- Working for Dr Kilpatrick, you had been in attendance since may 7th, you had spoken to Jane at 7pm on June 1st and she had expressed her grave concerns about the care her mother had received

9. Carl Redditch 70yrs:

1 Mains Lane, Bathton, Felpersham, Borseshire, FX7 2YD; Tel: 01240 487222; retired accountant

- Carl is a widow of 15yrs and his next of kin is his daughter, Susan, who lives in Canada
- He developed angina 15yrs ago and had a myocardial infarction 10yrs ago; his angina persisted until he had triple cardiac artery bypass grafting 6yrs ago; his angina was then stable apart from occasional attacks
- Carl is admitted to BRI on November 1st and Mr Lipton, Consultant orthopaedic surgeon, performs an elective left total hip replacement on November 2nd; Postoperatively Carl is unable to properly mobilise
- On December 4th he is admitted to a nursing home, remains bedbound and develops a chest infection on December 14th
- 2 days later, as Dr Lau's FY1, you admit him to TGH, CXR shows right pneumonic consolidation in lower two lobes and IV antibiotics are started
- 48hours later you think he looks unwell at 09:30 and his chest infection is clinically worse; at 10:00hrs he develops severe central chest pain and another myocardial infarction is diagnosed;
- He has a cardiac arrest, is unsuccessfully resuscitated with Staff nurse Mary Fold present and declared dead at 17:30hrs
- You last saw him at 17:00hrs and see him after death at 18:00hrs

Death Certification / Cremation 4: PART A – EXERCISES

- Complete the Cause of Death, duration of illness if known and need for coroner involvement (*including the reason if coroner contact is needed*)

1. Shirley White

Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

2. John Green

Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

3. Stephen Brown

Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

Death Certification / Cremation 4: PART A – EXERCISES continued

4. Margaret Pinkus	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

5. Jeanette Gold	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

6. Jack Silver	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

Death Certification / Cremation 4: PART A – EXERCISES continued

7. Paul Grey	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

8. Edith Black	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

9. Carl Redditch	
Cause of Death	Approximate interval between onset and death
I (a)
(b)
(c)
II
.....

Coroner informed? Tick box NO YES If YES, give reason:

.....

Death Certification / Cremation 4: *PART B – EXERCISES*

- Using the sample forms (*ask Jo*)
 - complete a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death for the cases below:
 - Shirley White
 - Margaret Pinkus
 - Carl Redditch
 - a Cremation 4 form for the cases below:
 - Shirley White
 - Margaret Pinkus