

## The medical examiner at The Christie

### Information for relatives and carers

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

The Christie is committed to producing high quality, evidence based information for patients. Our patient information adheres to the principles and quality statements of the Information Standard. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **[the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.patient.information@nhs.net)**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.

Contact The Christie Hotline for urgent support and specialist advice  
**The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658**  
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



## **Who are medical examiners and medical examiner officers?**

Medical examiners are senior doctors who have been appointed to review the circumstances when a person has died. They are independent from the team that treated the patient. They advise on the cause of death and also have a duty to check that there are no concerns over the quality of care.

They do not replace the coroners who must still review any death where there is concern that the death was unnatural.

## **How does the system work?**

After a person has died, medical examiners and their staff (called medical examiner officers) will review the medical records, discuss the causes of death with the doctor completing the official Medical Certificate of Cause of Death form and speak to a member of the person's family or carer.

The discussion between the medical examiner (or their officer) and the family may take the form of a telephone call or a meeting in person if you prefer.

## **What is the purpose of the discussion with the medical examiner (or officer)?**

This is an opportunity for you to have an open and honest conversation with someone who was not involved in providing care to the person who died. You can ask questions about their care that may be worrying you or of concern. It could be as simple as helping you to understand more about the treatment they received and causes of death or to understand the medical language used, or there may be something about the care which did not feel right or ideal.

As well as answering your questions, this process helps the NHS provide better care for other patients and carers in future, for example by uncovering ways in which patient and family care could be improved.

## **Can I ask the medical examiner to talk to someone else if it's too difficult for me to speak with them?**

Yes of course. You can tell us if you would rather have someone else as a first point of contact.

## **What will happen if something was not right?**

If there are issues with care that need further investigation, the medical examiner will refer these to someone who will do this.

For further information about the medical examiner process telephone: **0161 446 3643** or **0161 446 3350** Monday to Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm