

# Create a medical certificate of cause of death

## A design history

### Prototype version 7

Link to prototype: [GOV.UK page template - Medical Certificate of Cause of Death - GOV.UK Prototype Kit \(mccd-govuk.herokuapp.com\)](https://mccd-govuk.herokuapp.com/)

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### The medical examiner MCCD summary page (as of 12/10/2023)

The assumption is that the MEs have done their scrutiny (using the MES – Manage my caseload service) and this screen enables the ME to sign off the MCCD as correct.

This page displays the deceased person's details as entered by the attending practitioner. This information is sent to a medical examiner (ME) to be checked and reviewed. The information here will be used to create the MCCD, if approved by the ME.

327463

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#### MCCD summary

Deceased person's details	
Over 28 days old at time of death?	Yes
Full name	Thomas Robertson
Date of death	28 August 2023
Sex	Male
Seen before death?	Yes
Was the death in a hospital?	Yes
Location of death	Epsom General Hospital

Actions after death	
Post-mortem?	No
Seen after death by a doctor?	Yes

Cause of death	
1(a) Disease or condition directly leading to death	Heart attack
Time between onset and death	1 day
1(b) Other disease or condition	Other heart condition
Time between onset and death	5 years
Affected by employment	Yes

Attending practitioners information	
Full name	James Cameron
GMC number	12345678
Primary qualification	MB ChB 2010 University of Edinburgh
Work address	123 Hospital Road, Wing 4, Newcastle, Tyne and Wear, NE12 3AB

## The declaration

The declaration at the bottom of the summary page establishes whether, after scrutiny of the cause of death, the ME agrees or disagrees. If the ME doesn't agree with the AP's proposed cause of death, they click the bottom radio button and enter their suggestions. These suggestions will then go back to the AP and appear on their dashboard with a status of 'To be amended'.

### Medical examiner declaration

☐ I am a duly appointed medical examiner and following scrutiny I confirm that the cause of death is as stated on the certificate.

☒ I am a duly appointed medical examiner and following scrutiny I have provided suggestions about the cause of death stated on the certificate.

Provide suggestions and details about your decision

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## User research

This declaration sparked a lot of discussion.

Some people were confused by the second part of the declaration which reads *'I am a duly appointed medical examiner and following scrutiny I've provided suggestions about the cause of death stated on the certificate'*. Research shows that in practise, scrutiny has already happened, and the ME has already recorded their suggestions within their own established systems. Adding suggestions within this screen was an additional record and duplicated work already done. This led to confusion over its purpose – was it suggesting that scrutiny should be completed here?

A lot of feedback led to the understanding that they expected to stick to their current practises.

The declaration also sparked reflection in many participants. In a hospital situation the feedback was that the medical examiner office saw the MCCD and checked it off before it got sent to the registrar, this wasn't necessarily what happened for GPs. GPs would refer the MCCD through their own established processes such as System One, or an email or another mechanism that they would use to propose the cause of death. They would have a discussion with the MEs and then write the MCCD. One ME commented that the summary page would actually give them more visibility into the GP and the community based MCCDs.

Many did not expect the MCCD to be checked by the ME and that this would be done by the MEO.