**Introducing the Medical Examiner System In Tameside & Glossop.**

**What is the Medical Examiner (ME) System?**

* The Medical Examiner is a senior Doctor who has not been involved in the care of a patient who will review the case notes and scrutinise them to ensure that there are no concerns surrounding the death of a patient and that the cause of death offered by the attending physician is correct.
* The Medical Examiner system was actually one of the recommendations of The Shipman Enquiry in order to safeguard against another Shipman type event.
* It has since been recognised in other high profile enquiries (Mid-Staffs, Morecombe Bay), the importance of having a system in place to safeguard the public and this will be a legal requirement and is now being rolled out nationally.
* The Tameside and Glossop ME team have been scrutinising deaths at Tameside Hospital since August 2020, at first with some pilot cases and then extending the service until we were scrutinising all non-coronial deaths in the trust and also a large portion of the coronial ones prior to referral to HMC.
* The Tameside and Glossop ME team are now in the process of the community roll out and the aim is that we will be scrutinising all deaths in Tameside and Glossop, both hospital and community by April 2024.
* The Tameside and Glossop ME are piloting the community service, we have commenced scrutiny on the Stamford Unit before moving on to Willow Wood Hospice and then the wider community in increments.
* The Medical Examiner system provides a voice for the bereaved as they are able to discuss their loved ones care with a Doctor who is impartial and highlight any concerns.
* Medical Examiners can identify systemic safety risks and highlight these including previously undetected infections, poor nursing or medical care or allegations of neglect as well as monitoring for education needs in areas that provide care e.g. we have recently highlighted the need for re-training staff members on three wards on how to use the IPOC correctly when providing End of Life Care.
* Care concerns identified during scrutiny or issues raised by next of kin would be reported in the first instance to the lead GP/Practice manager at individual surgeries. Informal feedback or process issue would be raised with the regional primary care quality lead or head of primary care. Specific performer issues regarding an individual GP would be escalated to the regional medical directorate. Unresolved complaints from NOK would be escalated to NHS England.
* Discussions are on-going to provide an on-call ME service for weekend urgent release deaths. Currently awaiting funding approval.

**Process of Medical Examiner System for GP Surgeries**

**The Purpose of the Medical Examiner System is to:**

* Provide greater safeguarding for the public by ensuring proper scrutiny of all non-coronial deaths.
* Ensure the appropriate direction of deaths to the coroner.
* Provide a better service for the bereaved and give them an opportunity to raise concerns to a doctor not involved in their loved ones care.
* Improve quality of death certification and mortality data.

**The Team.**

* Our lead Medical Examiner is Dr Sundeep Puri, Dr Puri is a Consultant Cardiologist at the Trust.
* Our other Medical Examiners are Dr Charles Sherrington, a Consultant Neurologist based primarily at Salford but also running clinics at Tameside. Dr Suzanne Arron, GP, Dr Esther Isaacson, GP, Dr Julian Procter GP and Dr M Rafique, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Dr John Baxendale ED specialist.
* We have three Medical Examiner Officers in post, Lead MEO Lauren Cox works Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. James Capstick, MEO works Mon – Friday. Alexandria Eaves MEO works Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Our working hours are 8:00am – 4:00pm

**Contact**

In first instance please contact the Medical Examiner Officers as below:

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