

# Verification of Death

## AIMS

To be able to understand the process of verifying death, and the responsibilities and roles of people involved

## DURATION

Half Day (3 hours)

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course you will:

- Understand the procedure and law for verifying death
- Know what happens when a death is unexpected
- Recognise the lessons that can be learned from the Shipman Inquiry
- Know who can verify death
- Recognise the signs that death has occurred, and how to check for these
- Understand the steps to take to verify death has occurred
- Understand your role after the death of a patient
- Be aware of the wide range of religious practices surrounding the death of a loved one
- Know how to support other staff in the event of the death of a patient

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## LESSONS AND TOPICS

### Verification of Death Definition

- Verification of Death
- Certification of Death
- Summary of the Procedure
- The Law

### Unexpected Death Procedure

- Example Procedure for an Unexpected Death
- A Coroner's Involvement
- When a Coroner is not Involved

### The Shipman Inquiry

- Harold Shipman
- Background
- Effects Today

### Verifying Death

- Who Can Do This?
- Procedure for Verifying a Death
- Step by Step guide

### Signs that Death has Occurred

- Observations
- First Inspection
- Clinical Signs for Confirming Death
- Rigor Mortis
- Lividity (Livor Mortis)

### After Confirmation of Death

- Supporting the Family Immediately after Death
- Last Offices

### Religious Beliefs

- Their Importance
- Islam
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Buddhism
- Hinduism and Sikhism

### Mentoring and Preparing Staff for Death

- Mentoring