

# Staff training

## Verification of death

### 1. Patient dies

Anyone can express an opinion that you are or might be dead. Car accidents, rail crashes etc, this has always been the case. Recently with emphasis on elderly population and improving End of Life Care, the rules have been clarified.

This is ***Verification of death.***



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With appropriate training anyone can verify a death. This makes it more fulfilling for the staff and eases the process for the family and GPs, it makes the process more flexible and convenient. No waiting around for a doctor who doesn't need to attend.



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Absent pulses – major blood vessels, where?

Absent heart sounds – what if weak?

Absent breathing – do you know I'm breathing?

Heart and lungs not working

Absent pupil reactions, fixed and dilated

The brain isn't working

Absent pain reflex

The sensors aren't working

If nothings working you are dead



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### Verification of death.

- Verify the patient is dead
- Date and time they died
- Who was present at death
- Date and time you Verified them as being dead
- Note circumstances, expected / unexpected?
- Complete paperwork, **copy to GP next day**
- Inform relatives, staff, carers, GP etc.

