

## **RNVoEAD Training - Leeds Community Health CareTrust**

May 2020 - Summary of Questions and Answers Sessions

### **Q. What is changed in VoEAD because of the Covid 19 situation?**

A. National RNVoEAD guidelines have been revised in response to Covid 19.

The key changes are:

- An altered training model for Registered Nurses- on completion of training (this might include watching a training video) an RN can make a self-assessment of their competency to perform the skill independently.
- The Medical Certificate of the Cause of Death can be issued where the Medical Practitioner has seen the deceased within 28 days prior to death (rather than 14 days) and includes seeing the patient via video link, or after death.
- PPE (surgical mask, gloves and apron as minimum) to be donned for all verifications of expected adult death irrespective of whether they have COVID-19 or not.

### **Q. After Covid 19, will 28 days instead of 14 days be maintained, as the required timescale for a patient to be seen by a GP or Medical Practitioner prior to death?**

This is not yet known. The regulatory bodies (medical and nursing) will work with the Government to determine this.

### **Q. Do I need to be signed off by somebody competent already in RNVoEAD?**

A. During Covid 19, competency to verify expected adult death can be by self-assessment. This involves you completing and signing a self-assessment form, after training (this may include watching the training video). The self-assessment form is part of the national document which includes comprehensive guidance for verifying expected death.

### **Q. What if I do not feel confident or competent enough to verify expected death, after the training?**

A. It is important that you seek support if you do not feel you are competent initially. You may get support from a colleague who has already completed the training and is competent or you can contact Leeds Community Health Care Trust (End of Life Care Facilitators for Care Homes) who can offer you support.

**Q. Where can I access ongoing clinical support?**

A. Leeds Community Health Care Trust (End of Life Care Facilitators for Care Homes) are able to provide additional support and will come into the Care Home if required.

**Q. Can I do VoEAD alone, as sometimes I am the only Registered Nurse on duty?**

A. Yes, if you have gone through the training and self-assessed yourself as competent

**Q. If a patient is admitted to a care home from hospital and dies shortly afterwards, for example in 2 or 3 days, can I verify death?**

A. Yes, if the death is expected, you can verify it. In this case, it is to be expected that there has been clear communication from the hospital to the care home to indicate the patient has a limited prognosis.

**Q. Will new arrangements for VoEAD continue or not, after Covid 19**

A. Whilst it is likely that after Covid 19, training and assessment for VoEAD will revert to the previous arrangements, your competency to verify expected death will continue. Like any nursing skill, it will need to be kept up-to-date. It should be in your Personal Development Plan and Annual Appraisal and if you have not verified a death for a few months, you should refresh your skill, for example by revisiting VoEAD training and guidance documents

**Q. What is the required verification of death documentation?**

A. Each Care Home produces its own form to verify death, which goes in the patients notes. It needs to be clearly stated on the form the time of verification of death, the tests done and to have the name and signature of the person verifying death. Guidance, from Hospice UK, recommends that verification of death should be done no later than 2-4 hours after death. Leeds Community Health Trust End of Life Care Facilitators can provide examples of VoEAD Forms if required

**Q. Is there an example policy for nursing homes?**

A. An example policy revised for the COVID 19 period is available on the on CCG website.



For further information and support contact

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