**Completing Cremation Forms – advice from York Crematorium Medical Referees**

1. The requirement to complete the confirmatory medical certificate (form Cremation 5) is suspended.  Cremations should be authorised on the basis of form Cremation 4 only.
2. Form Cremation 4 remains unchanged and a PDF version continues to be available on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cremation-medical-certificate). It can be submitted electronically to the Funeral Director and an electronic signature includes being sent from the secure email account of the person completing the form Cremation 4.
3. The requirement for form Cremation 4 to be completed by the attending medical practitioner is suspended.  Any medical practitioner can now complete form Cremation 4, even if they did not attend the deceased during their last illness or after death, if the following conditions are fulfilled:
   1. The medical practitioner who did attend the deceased is unable to sign the form Cremation 4 or it is impractical for them to do so and,
   2. A medical practitioner has seen the deceased (including audiovisual/video consultation) within 28 days before death, or has viewed the body in person after death.
4. Examination of the body is not required for completion of form Cremation 4 IF the deceased was seen by a medical practitioner (including audiovisual/video consultation) in the 28 days before death. If this is the case, please state ‘Under new Covid guidance patient not seen after death as had been seen within the last 28 days of life’ in Q9.   **If the deceased was not seen (either in person or by video) within the 28 days before death, the body MUST be seen in person by a medical practitioner (video examination of the body is NOT acceptable).  If not seen by the doctor completing Cremation form 4, the date, time, nature of the examination, name and GMC number of the doctor who did see the body must be stated in Q9**
5. When a medical practitioner who did not attend the deceased completes form Cremation 4, the following applies:
   1. Question 5. ‘Usual medical practitioner’. Where the certifying doctor did not themselves attend the patient either during their illness or after death, the certifying doctor should provide the GMC number and name of the medical practitioner who did attend at Question 9. This should also include the date when the deceased was seen and a report of the record made by the attending doctor.
   2. Question 6. ‘Please state for how long you attended the deceased during their last illness?’. ‘Not applicable’ is acceptable
   3. Question 7. ‘Please state the number of days and hours before the deceased’s death that you last saw them alive?’. ‘Not applicable’ is acceptable. However see note (v) below.
   4. Question 8. ‘Please state the date and time that you saw the body of the deceased and the examination that you made of the body’. ‘Not applicable’ is acceptable.  However, see note (v) below
   5. Question 9.  If the Cremation form 4 is being completed on the basis of another medical practitioner having seen the deceased after death or you were not the attending doctor, the GMC number and name of the medical practitioner who did see the deceased, with the date, time and nature of their examination, should be recorded here.

Please ensure the narrative on the cause of death is complete in Question 9.

The revised guidance on completing cremation forms is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medical-practitioners-guidance-on-completing-cremation-forms>

And other guidance on death certification and cremation is available at

<https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/6590/COVID-19-act-excess-death-provisions-info-and-guidance-31-march.pdf>

