

Guidance for General Practitioners on the death of patient deprived of their liberty

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Project method

Following the Cheshire West ruling and the coroner's guidance on the death of a person under DoLS a group of GPs in Calderdale approached Calderdale CCG to help write some guidance. The guidance provides a simple process for GPs to understand their responsibilities for informing the coroner when a person dies who has been deprived of their liberty in care home. The guidance covers situations where the person dies inside and outside normal working hours and in situations where the death was expected and unexpected. It also includes a report template for GPs to complete to give the coroner the appropriate information to assist in decision making about conducting an inquest.

Project results/evaluation

The small working group of GPs in Calderdale have expressed great satisfaction with the draft document (which is expected to be agreed by all parties by the end of Feb 2016). The guidance will be shared with and used in Calderdale, Kirklees and Bradford. The guidance is likely to increase GPs confidence in dealing with what was previously seen as a confusing situation and minimise the risks of undue upset to friends and relatives of the deceased.

Project area classification

Hospital care		Dementia	
GP care	x	Learning disability	
Social care		Other mental health	
Voluntary sector		Palliative care	
Financial services		Advance planning, LPAs	
Police		Commissioning	
Legal		Training	
Community health care		For professionals?	x
Nursing and care home	x	For public and service users?	
Acute care			