



What other help is available?

Further information can be found on GOV.UK:

What to do after a death in England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/after-a-death>



Kingsway

GP Surgery

WHAT TO DO WHEN SOMEONE DIES



*This leaflet is about the practicalities
of what to do when someone dies.*

When someone close to you dies there are many decisions to make and practical arrangements that you need to put in place. This is often at a time when people are emotionally distressed. This leaflet provides some information about what needs to be done when someone dies.

Step 1

Your Doctor, if not already aware of the death, needs to be informed that this has happened.

The Doctor can come and certify the death plus give information about how to register the death.

Step 2

If this was an unexpected death or the deceased had not seen a Doctor within the last 14 days, it is necessary to contact the doctor who will also notify the police. This means that the Coroner will be informed by the doctor. The Coroner will then decide if there needs to be a post mortem or an inquest.

Step 3

Once a death certificate has been issued, a funeral director can be contacted and they will take the deceased person to the chapel of rest at the funeral home. At this stage it may be helpful for the funeral director to know of any wishes of the deceased or of any cultural or religious beliefs.

Step 4

The death has to be registered within 5 days of the death and a death certificate issued. In the case of an unexpected death, registration cannot take place until investigations by the Coroner have been completed. After registration, the Registrar will issue a Certificate of Burial or Cremation which is to be given to the funeral director.

Safe disposal of medication

When someone dies it is important that their medicines are disposed of safely. You should return any medicines to your local community pharmacy for safe disposal.

The pharmacist is obliged to check if you are returning “controlled drugs” (e.g. Morphine) as they must record any returned controlled drugs before disposing of them.