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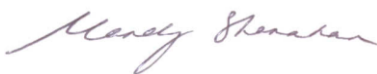
Dear Colleague

We have been notified by the Coroner with concerns about medical certificates as to the cause of death where this involves kidney failure, as there is a growing practice for this to be recorded as "kidney injury". The law about death certification and cremation mean that deaths caused by "injury, poisoning, privation and neglect" must be reported to the coroner unless there is evidence to show that the "injury" is non-traumatic. The reason is that there may be a criminal background to these deaths. Registrars, therefore, would have to have clearance from the coroner to register deaths with these words on the certificates.

Please be aware of this when recording on medical certificates for kidney failure, as the referral to the coroner results in delays which are causing further distress to the families of the deceased.

The Coroner has said that it would be of great assistance that if you do record as an "injury" that you state it is natural and non-traumatic.

Yours sincerely



Mandy Shanahan  
Director of Primary Care and Transformation

