



20 Owl Lane, Dewsbury  
West Yorkshire WF12 7RQ  
Tel: 01924 465851  
Fax: 01924 457001  
Email: LMC@forrestburlinson.co.uk

## **BULLETIN - 1**

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### **DEATH CERTIFICATION**

**The death certification procedures for patients in nursing homes under Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) no longer require referral to the coroner unless the GP has significant concerns about the cause or nature of their death.**

*From the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2017, it will no longer be necessary to refer all patients who die while subject to an authorisation under the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) to the coroner.*

*Before that date, patients who died subject to DoLS were regarded as dying while in state detention, triggering an automatic requirement for an inquest. From Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 will be amended so that coroners will no longer be under a duty to investigate a death solely because the individual was subject to the DoLS at the time. These deaths will only require reporting to the coroner if the cause of death was unknown, or where the cause of death was violent or unnatural.*

*All deaths while subject to a DoLS authorisation that occur prior to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April will still need to be reported to the Coroner*

**Daniel Hodgson**

Committee Secretary (General Practice Committee)

Committee Services

Policy Directorate

**British Medical Association**

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