






## Verification of Expected Death (Quick Step by Step Guide)

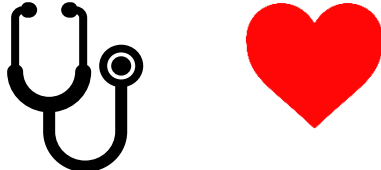

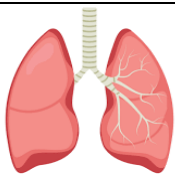


You will perform this examination with **PPE donned** and after all pre- checks have been carried out. The examination should take a minimum of 5 minutes from start to finish. You may wish to perform the process more than once.

Contact with the deceased should be limited as much as possible whilst still carrying out the correct process thoroughly.

**IMMEDIATELY BEFORE** you start the examination (PPE already donned):












<b>ID</b>		Double check ID of patient and if patient has implantable devices e.g. Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD). Ensure ICD deactivated.
		Ensure patient is flat and window in room is open
		Open sterile sheet/dressing pack and put onto a clean surface
		Ensure you have a <b>second pair</b> of disposable gloves on
		Place clean stethoscope and pen torch onto the sterile sheet

### Examination Process

	Use stethoscope to listen for heart sounds over clothing/night clothes, in centre and left side of chest for 1 minute  Place stethoscope on sheet ready for cleaning
	Use pen-torch to test both eyes for absence of pupillary response to light. Pupils are usually fixed and dilated  Place pen torch on sheet ready for cleaning
	<b>Observe</b> for any signs of respiratory effort over the 5 minutes  <b>DO NOT</b> place your ear to the person's nose/mouth to listen for breathing
	Palpate for a central (carotid) pulse for 1 minute and if necessary, through the clothing/night clothes
	After 5 minutes of continued cardio-respiratory arrest perform a trapezius squeeze. Carry this out through clothing/night clothes  The trapezius is a flat triangular muscle that covers the shoulder like a scarf. You grab this muscle firmly (not just the skin) with thumb and two fingers, pinch 1 or 2 inches and twist slightly

**If there is any spontaneous return of cardiac or respiratory activity during the above procedure observe for a further FIVE minutes**

**IMMEDIATELY AFTER you have completed examination:**

 	Take off your first pair of gloves and dispose of in small waste bag
  	Clean your stethoscope and pen torch with 70% alcohol wipe and place in a clean bag
	Leave all tubes, lines, medication patches and pumps in situ, switching off flows of medication and spigot off as applicable.
<b>DOFF</b> 	Remove (DOFF) your PPE as directed in PPE guidance – finish with hand hygiene
	Complete required patient documentation including local verification of death form
<b>Doctor</b> 	Notify Doctor of the death
	Check emotional impact of death on bereaved loved ones and on those close to the patient, including staff. Offer information and guidance
	Wash your hands before leaving the premises or area of care

**References:**

[South Cheshire & Vale Royal Symptom Control Community Guidelines – COVID-19](#) Published 15<sup>th</sup> April

[Special Edition COVID-19 Nurse Verification of Expected Death Guidelines-](#) published 14<sup>th</sup> April \*\*new guidance of procedure and use of PPE\*\*