







Verification of Expected Death (Step by Step Guide)

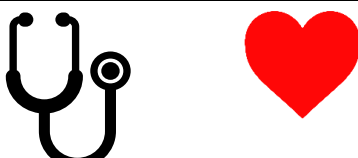

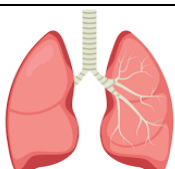


You will perform this examination with **PPE donned** and after all pre- checks have been carried out. The examination should take a minimum of 5 minutes from start to finish. You may wish to perform the process more than once.

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 donned):









ID		Double check ID of patient and if patient has an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)
		Leave all tubes, lines, medication patches and pumps in situ, switching off flows of medication and spigot off as applicable
		Ensure patient is flat and window in room is open
		Open clean sheet/dressing pack and put onto a clean surface
		Ensure you have a second pair of disposable gloves available
		Place clean stethoscope and pen torch onto the clean 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
	Observe for any signs of respiratory effort over the 5 minutes DO NOT 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:

	<p>Take off your first pair of gloves and dispose of in small waste bag Leave your remaining PPE on</p>
	<p>Carry out hand hygiene and put on a your second pair of clean disposable gloves</p>
	<p>Clean your stethoscope and pen torch with 70% alcohol wipe and place in a clean bag</p>
<p>DOFF</p> 	<p>Remove (DOFF) your PPE as directed in PPE guidance – finish with hand hygiene</p>
	<p>Complete required patient documentation</p>
	<p>Leave pre-prepared letter and information pack for staff and direct to training and guidance as required</p>
	<p>Check well-being of staff and if any further information is required</p>
	<p>Wash your hands before leaving the premises</p>

References:

[Special Edition COVID-19 Nurse Verification of Expected Death Guidelines](#)- published 28th April **new guidance of procedure and use of PPE**