





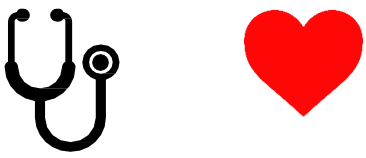
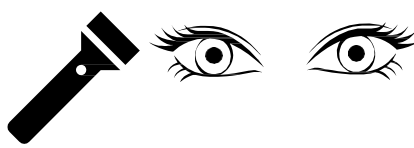


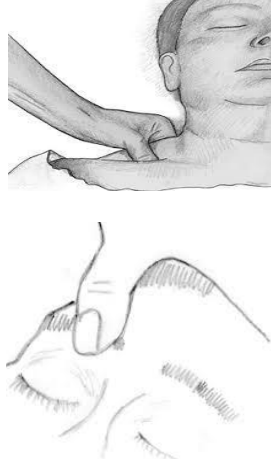
Verification of Expected Death (Quick Step by Step Guide)

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.

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







ID		Double check ID of patient and if patient has implantable devices e.g. Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD). Ensure ICD deactivated.
		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
		Ensure you have a stethoscope, pen torch and the local verification of expected death form

Examination Process

	Use stethoscope to listen for heart sounds over clothing/night clothes, in centre and left side of chest for 1 minute
	Use pen-torch to test both eyes for absence of pupillary response to light. Pupils are usually fixed and dilated
	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 either a trapezius squeeze through clothing/night clothes to test for the absence of motor response or use supra orbital pressure to test for the absence of cerebral activity 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. Supra orbital pressure requires using the finger or thumb and applying pressure to the supra orbital groove which is along the bony ridge at the top of the eye

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:

	Remove PPE according to policy and carry out hand hygiene
	Clean your equipment as per local policy
	Complete required patient documentation including local verification of death form
Doctor 	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:

5th Edition of Care After Death: Registered Nurse Verification of expected Adult death Guidance. Final 5.1 version April 2023