WHEN SOMEONE DIES AT HOME
WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

You do not have to do anything straightaway

This information relates to what to do for an expected home death. It is OK to spend some quiet time with the person who has died, acknowledge their death with a special ritual or take time for yourself. You may wish to call a family member or friend to be with you.

Because the person's body becomes rigid in a few hours, you can straighten the person in their bed and replace their dentures if applicable. It is a good idea to turn off the electric blanket and heater in their room.

You may wish to sponge away any perspiration or body fluids that may be distressing to you or to others, or to dress the person in different clothes.

- No matter how well prepared you think you are, the experience of death can be emotional and you may not be thinking clearly

- Take your time – there is no need to hurry

Who to contact

- There is no legal requirement for you to contact anyone immediately

- You **DO NOT** have to contact the ambulance or police

- If you are unsure about anything at this time, it's OK to call your nurse or GP

After the person dies, the doctor needs to certify the death. If the doctor is not available, an authorised nurse or paramedic can complete a 'Verification of Death' form which confirms that the person has died, and allows the doctor to complete the medical certificate at a later stage.

If the person has died during the night you may decide to wait until the morning before calling the doctor.

The person's body can stay at home for some hours if you wish, especially if you would like friends and relatives to come and say their goodbyes.

When you are ready, contact the funeral director who will take the person's body and guide you through funeral arrangements.

Helpful contact numbers

	Name	Contact number/s
GP		
After hours doctor*		
Community/Palliative care nurse		
Faith/religious/spiritual advisor		
Funeral director		
Other		

*Check with local service providers about after hours services/procedures

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Notes

If at any time you have any further questions note them here and speak to your Local Doctor or the Community Nurse

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CLINICAL EXCELLENCE COMMISSION