

17. Notifying the GP

- 17.1 Failure to notify a deceased patient's GP can lead to distress if relatives are later contacted about appointments, or if they contact the GP for advice and support following bereavement. It may also waste the GP/Practice's time if the patient's pre-arranged appointments are not cancelled.
- 17.2 The deceased patient's GP must be notified of the death as soon as practically possible – in most cases within 24 hours.
- 17.3 Clinical areas must have a clear and effective local process for timely notification of patients' deaths to their GPs. Section 5.7 of [Completion of Medical Certificate of Cause of Death \(MCCD\) and Review Process](#) outlines how TRAK can be used to notify GPs within Lothian of a patient's death via an immediate discharge summary. Alternatively the GP can be contacted by telephone call and followed up by letter.
- 17.4 The GP should be given information on the date, location and certified cause of death, and the certifying doctor's name and contact details for further information.
- 17.5 Where relevant, nursing staff should inform other healthcare professionals (e.g. health visitors, midwives, school nurses etc) and health care suppliers (e.g. suppliers of home oxygen, incontinence products, etc).