Reporting Deaths to the Coroner

Electronic Referrals

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Background

- Structure of the Coroners' Office

- The Coroners' review

- Driver behind moving towards electronic referrals

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Benefits of electronic referrals

- Ensures there is an audit trail of information between the Doctor and Coroner and vice versa

- Allows the Coroner to make informed decisions with the confidence that the information with which he is presented is the information as provided by the Doctor

- Ensures the integrity of information ensuring that information, detail and facts are not lost in translation

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Benefits continued ……….

- Prevents Doctors spending time contacting the Coroners' Office and being unable to get through

- Allows Doctors to prepare and send the information to the Coroner's Officers at a time to suit them

- Allows an avenue for Coroner's Officers to update the Doctor electronically and not disturbing the Doctor or being told the Doctor is with a patient

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- Benefits continued ……….

- Reduces workload for administrators in surgeries answering / transferring calls

- Embraces technology in line with the Chief Coroner's advice

- Electronic Death reporting is now nationally accepted and is being adopted in Coronial areas as best practice

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Procedure

- In the short term this will be achieved by Dr's gaining access to the death referral form which will be attached to the Bradford Council website

- The form is then completed by the person reporting the death (GP's, Dr's, attending Care Homes, Hospices etc) and emailed to the Coroners' Office.

- <u>All fields</u> must be completed to give the Coroners Officer all the details required by HM Coroner about the deceased.

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Procedure continued……

- If there is any information that is unknown, please state this on the form

- The completed form is then emailed to: *coronersoffice@bradford.gcsx.gov.uk*

- If there are any comments or queries that you feel do not fit within context of the form please notes these on the email

- The SCO (senior coroner's officer) will receive each one and allocate the death to a CO.

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Next steps

- Another area for improvement identified by the review was IT

- A new IT system has been introduced by the Local Authority Legal Services Department and this is soon to be adopted by the Coroners' Department.

- Once this system is fully operational those referring deaths will be asked to log onto a portal and complete the death referral online

- This will then self populate to the new Coroners IT system.

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