

Vision

To work towards continuous improvement in bereavement care: where death and bereavement are seen as part of life, where care of the dying is as important as care of the living and after-death care is a continuation of good practice

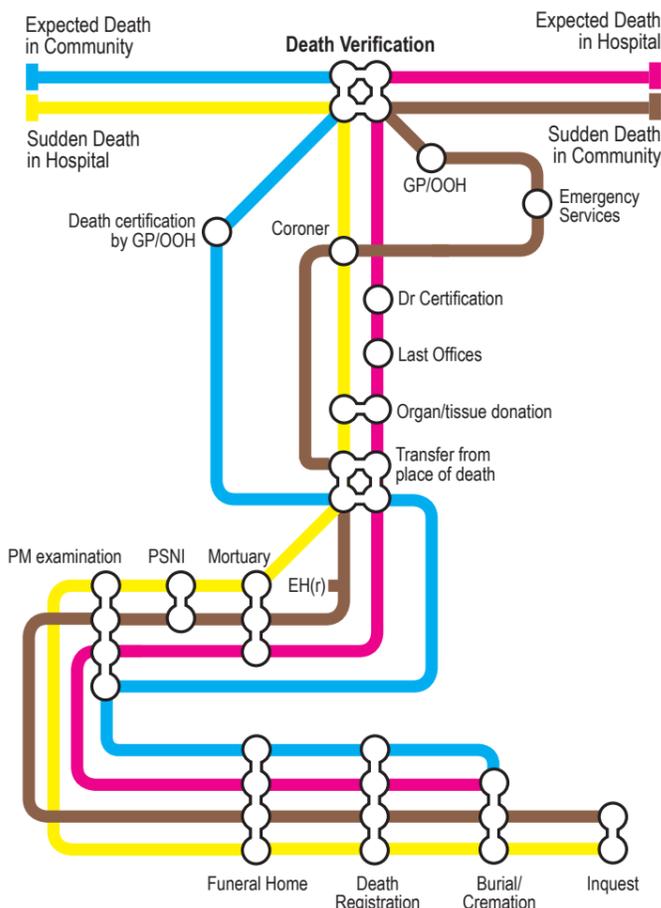
Context

The HSC Bereavement Network (HSCBN) was established in Northern Ireland in 2006 with the appointment of 5 bereavement coordinators. The coordinators undertook a programme of audit and engagement (2009 and 2010) to map Trust and Hospice practices and the experience of bereaved people around the time of death and afterwards. This work resulted in 6 standards to guide care contained in the HSC Services Strategy for Bereavement Care, 2009.

Trust Bereavement Coordinators

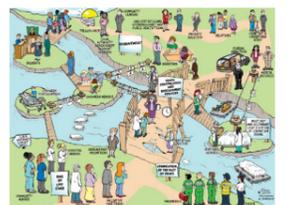


Bereavement Network Care After Death Journey



Achieving the Vision - 6 HSC Standards for Bereavement Care

- 1 Raising Awareness**
 - Information on grief and bereavement at corporate and service specific induction
 - 'Grief and Bereavement' booklet for trust staff
 - HSC Bereavement Network Website launched 2015 www.hscbereavementnetwork.hscni.net
- 2 Promoting Safe and Effective Care**
 - Regional policies and procedures and practices eg. Body Transfer Form, Policy and Consent forms for Hospital PM Examination
 - Bereavement Standards acknowledged in other strategies and initiatives eg. Living Matters, Dying Matters, GAIN/RQIA Standards for Palliative and End of Life Care
 - Provides expertise to DHSSPS steering groups eg. Care Pathway for Miscarriage, Stillbirth and Neonatal Death, review of Death Certification.
- 3 Communication, Information & Resources**
 - Training in supportive communication relevant to care before and after death
 - Bereavement information pages for Trust intra and internet sites
 - Printed bereavement resources and translations.
- 4 Creating a Supportive Experience**
 - Symbols for display on wards after death eg. Water lily, HFH project symbol
 - Introduction of 'Return of Patient Property' bags
 - Contribution to Advance Care Planning initiatives.
- 5 Knowledge, Skills & Support**
 - In service training on grief and bereavement, care after death, post mortem consent, communication
 - Liaison with HSC Clinical Education Centre
 - Delivery of grief, bereavement and care after death training to nursing students at Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast
 - Staff support initiatives including annual staff remembrance services.
- 6 Working Together**
 - Multi disciplinary Trust Bereavement Fora responsible for local implementation of bereavement standards
 - Liaison with other statutory services, and voluntary and community bereavement support organisations eg. PSNI, Coroners Service, Funeral Directors, Sands, Cruse Bereavement Care and IHF to improve the experience of bereaved people
 - Ensuring the involvement of service users.



The Next 10 Years!

2015 Re-audit of progress in HSC Trusts

A recent HSCBN re-audit found that Trusts have fully implemented the majority of recommendations from the original audit, with the development of a regional bereavement strategy, relevant policies, procedures, guidelines and bereavement resources; and training and development programmes for staff.

While Trusts have the necessary guidance, training and resources to provide optimum bereavement care in place, it is apparent from the staff surveyed that not all are aware of what is available or expected of them. This has implications for the quality of care they provide. The re-audit recommendations aim to address this.

Meeting the recommendations:

- Review and update HSC Strategy for Bereavement Care
- Support Trusts to ensure relevant guidance is readily accessible for staff
- Review content and delivery of training programmes and improve accessibility
- Monitor and improve uptake of PM consent training
- Raise staff's awareness of all support that is available to them and to bereaved people
- Continue to develop and monitor content and use of bereavement resources
- Support staff working to embed the principles for care planning for those at end of life
- Advise on improving facilities where viewing of deceased takes place.

