

Sudden Death of Doctor in Postgraduate Training

Review Process

The death of any individual is distressing. This is even more so when the death is unexpected or deliberate. Postgraduate Deans have a particular responsibility and duty of care to doctors in postgraduate training. Therefore, Postgraduate Deans within England apply a systematic approach to such events, in particular suicide, where it is hoped that proactive action and intervention where appropriate will reduce the incidence of such events. This will be done using the following steps:

1. Acknowledgement that there is an issue
2. Prevention
3. Ensuring access to support is available
4. Approach and advice during the initial post suicide period
5. Learning from events

Specifically Postgraduate Deans will promote health and wellbeing.

English Deans: Analysing events after they have occurred

Postgraduate Deans are committed to reducing these incidents as far as possible. However, in order to learn there must be data collated so learning can occur and support put in place as and when appropriate. This will also ensure that organisations involved have the correct educational support in place.

Principles:

There is a nominated English Dean that will co-ordinate the approach for response within England.

There will be an annual collation of events and an annual summary produced with recommendations to NHSE.

English Deans will report in a systematic way to ensure patterns and lessons learned are visible.

English Deans will promote and signpost to NHSE and other wellbeing resources.

Appendix A contains current format for data collection (updated April 2023).

Dr Paul Sadler
April 2023

Appendix A – Data Collection Form

Sudden Death Report Form			
GMC No			
Date of death			
Mode (select relevant response)	Accident	Suicide	Other (please provide details below)
Specialty			
Identified at risk prior to event? (Yes/No)	<i>(If yes, please provide details in the box below)</i>		
Age			
Gender			
Ethnicity			
Sexual orientation			
Religion			
Marital status			
Next of kin known? (Yes/No)			
Pre-existing health problems (select relevant response)	Physical health	Mental health	Not aware of any pre-existing health problems
Accessed OH services? (Yes/No)			
Most recent ARCP outcome			
Previous concerns with educational progress? (Yes/No)			
Previous referral to professional support and wellbeing service? (Yes/No)			
Known to Educational support services – PGD? (Yes/No)			
Accessed local education support – Employer/trust/practice? (Yes/No)			
Fitness to Practice Issues? (Yes/No)			
GMC referral? (Yes/No)			
Site Details			
Site			
Supervision issues			

Appropriate use of Tariff	
Enhanced monitoring	
Were employer and HR engaged in welfare issues? (Yes/No)	