

TO PROVIDE **THE VERY BEST CARE** FOR EACH PATIENT ON EVERY OCCASION

Managing Muslim deaths in Manchester



If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Ethnic Health Team on 0161 627 8770

اگر انگلش آپکی مادری زبان نہیں ہے۔ اور آپ بات چیت کرنے میں دقت محسوس کرتے ہیں۔ تو مدد کیلئے آپ ایتھنک ہیلتھ ٹیم سے نیچے دیئے ہوئے نمبر پر رابطہ کریں۔

0161 627 8770

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ইংরেজী যদি আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হয় অথবা ইংরেজী বলতে ও বুঝতে আপনার অস্ববিধা হয় তাহলে এথনিক হেলথ টীমের সাথে নীচের টেলিফোন নাম্বারে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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Jeżeli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy proszę skontaktować się z załogą Ethnic Health pod numerem telefonu 0161 627 8770

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Introduction

Dealing with the death of a patient, or a loved one is not something most people would choose to have to do, however it is a fact of life that death is inevitable for us all, at whatever stage of our life that may occur. It requires preparation, both physical and spiritual, based on one's beliefs and circumstances.

This leaflet is primarily designed to provide a simple, brief overview of the process of managing the death of a Muslim within the Pennine Acute NHS Trust, although, by and large, the statutory procedures will be similar throughout the UK. It is intended to provide clarity and direction for those less familiar with the process, and who may not only be feeling traumatised at their loss, but also having to deal with the organisation of the funeral and burial of the deceased. Information contained in this booklet has been obtained through careful discussion and dialogue with the relevant people involved in the process. This is only meant as a brief insight to help the bereaved who have little or no experience of dealing with such situations. More specific or detailed information should be sought from the relevant specialist agencies.

Preparation where death is imminent

If the patient is undergoing medical treatment, hospital staff/ doctors have a role to play in keeping the family informed of the patient's condition, when the patient is approaching death. Discussions and dialogue should already be taking place, to plan for the end of the patient's life. Relevant members of the family should be having discussions with the hospital staff to ensure that the wishes of the patient and family are understood, and, where possible, supported.

Hospital staff are trained to deal with and manage patients at the end of their life, through care and management plans, to ensure that they follow procedures in line with good practice when a patient dies.

The chaplaincy and spiritual care department at the hospital can be contacted where a Muslim chaplain can be requested to help, advise and support staff, patients and visitors'.

Funeral costs

Some Muslims may be paying into a “death committee” on a regular basis, to pay for and organise all funeral arrangements. These are usually run by members of some masjids (mosques) or privately within families. Primarily this is for cost of a funeral and burial following transportation of the deceased abroad, should this have been the patient’s/family’s wish.

For those not part of any such fund, it is likely that the cost of the funeral will have to be covered by the deceased’s estate or family members, depending upon financial circumstances. Masjids and people in the community will generally cover the cost of funerals for people who have little or no money and when this is proven to be the case. If the deceased left nothing in place for the funeral costs, then it is incumbent upon family members to pay for these. If the deceased/family of the deceased claim Income Support or Disability Living Allowance it may be possible to get help with funeral costs. However that would only apply where the deceased is buried in the UK. Please contact the Department for Work and Pensions for further information and note that claims must be made within 3 months of the burial of the deceased.

Autopsy/post mortem/MRI scan/toxicology
(see Manchester City Council booklet “When death is reported to the coroner” A step by step guide)

The law of the land states that where the cause of death is unclear and or not due to natural causes an autopsy/post mortem will be carried out by a pathologist on the instruction of the coroner who must give notice as to why this is necessary.

Permission of next of kin is NOT required for post mortems to be carried out. In some instances where this procedure is deemed necessary an MRI scan can be done, but this may not always be sufficient for the coroner to make a clear assessment of the cause of death, and a post mortem may still be required.

The cost of the MRI scan is usually in excess of £800 (at the time of writing). The cost of the scan must be met by the family or their representative, it is not a cost that can be paid by the Coroners Service.

Death rites

The circumstances of when and how a death occurred can add to the sense of tragedy and trauma after the loss of a loved one. However, generally speaking, death is seen as a natural event for Muslims. Where possible it is preferred that death should be faced in the company of family and friends, not among strangers in a sterile medical ward. When a Muslim nears death, his loved ones gather around to help him/her turn his thoughts to God. They may wish to recite from the Quran and remind the patient about the good things he/she did during their life, reinforcing hope in the mercy of God. They may also prompt him, very gently, to repeat words of faith as his last words.

After death has been confirmed, those present close the eyes of the deceased, straighten their limbs and cover the body with a clean sheet. If the deceased died in hospital, any needles or catheters should be removed and the puncture marks covered with a plaster. In the case of a death being referred to the Coroner, all needles, lines and catheters must be left in situ until their removal is authorised by the Coroner. The funeral arrangers then hasten to prepare the body for washing, shrouding, and burial.

Islamic burial

Muslims strive to bury the dead as soon as possible after death, and many Islamic burials occur within twenty-four hours. Family members or other members of the Muslim community care for the deceased. The body is washed with soap and water by a person or persons of the same gender, following the same general process as in the ablutions for prayer. In the final wash, perfume or camphor is added to the water. Finally, the body is dried with a towel and shrouded in plain white cloths.

At the time of burial, Muslims gather to pray the funeral prayer, called *salaat-l-janazah*. This is a congregational prayer during which worshippers ask God for forgiveness and mercy for the deceased. The congregation gathers in front of the body, standing in rows. The funeral prayer is said silently except for a few words. After the prayer, the body is transferred directly to the cemetery for burial.

Muslims prefer simple and natural burials. If permitted by local law, the deceased is buried without even a casket. The shrouded body is placed in the grave resting on the right side, facing Makkah (which from UK is south east direction). Muslim cemeteries are characterized by simplicity, humility, and economy.

Repatriation of the deceased to country of origin

It is discouraged to transport a deceased person from one area to another for burial. (Radd al-Muhtar 1:602, 5:275). If this is of concern, then the dying person or bereaved family should seek advice from Islamic authorities. Suffice it to say, that overall in this country, there are designated areas for Muslim burials, therefore death occurring in the UK would not in itself constitute a good reason to send the body abroad. Families should note that the deceased body would have to be embalmed which requires the blood to be drained from the body and replaced with a formaldehyde based fluid. Also the cost of transporting from one country to another can be in the region of £1200.

In the event a person dies outside of the UK, the death would need to be registered with the local authorities of that country.

Procedures following death

The following is a basic outline and information on what needs to be done to enable, where possible, the quick burial of a departed Muslim in Greater Manchester. The first step in all cases is to contact the following people immediately:

- 1) family doctor
- 2) funeral director
- 3) local imam
- 4) close relatives

Death at home or hospital

Cause of death known

If the deceased person's GP had seen them at home during their last illness and can certify the cause of death or, if at hospital, the doctor is aware of the cause of death, then a Medical Certificate of Cause of Death will be issued free of charge, stating the cause of death. This is also referred to as a MCCD - Medical Certificate as to the Cause of Death.

To register the death, you should take the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death to the Registrar of Births and Deaths for the area where the death took place (the registrar is usually based at the Civic Offices or the Town Hall. There is a list of registry offices within Greater Manchester at the back of this information booklet.

When you go to the registry office you should also take the following:

- the deceased's NHS medical card (if available)
- birth and marriage certificates (if available) or their passport.

You should inform the registrar of:

- the date and place of death
- the deceased's usual address
- the deceased's date, town and country of birth
- the date and place of death
- the deceased's occupation
- (if married) the date of birth of the deceased's widow/widower and their occupation

The registrar issues death certificates at the cost of £4.00 each.

- **Certificate for Burial – (green form)** - this form should be given to the funeral director as an authorisation for burial.
- **Certificate of Registration of Death (form BD8):** This is for social security purposes and for probate etc. This certificate can be taken to the Social Security Office if you wish to claim bereavement payment and bereavement allowance.

Further Information

Death in hospital

The body would normally be transferred from the ward to the hospital mortuary. The funeral arranger will then transport it from there to the allocated mosque to be prepared for the funeral. How soon the formalities of confirming the cause of death, releasing the body to family etc will depend on individual circumstances.

Cause of death unknown

At home if the deceased person's GP is unable to certify the cause of death, then he/she will inform the police who in turn will inform the coroner.

At hospital if the doctor is unable to certify the cause of death, then he/she will inform the coroner. (The coroner is usually a doctor or lawyer responsible for investigating certain deaths).

The matter is referred to the coroner if death occurs in any of the following circumstances at home or at hospital:

- if the deceased person was not seen by a doctor during his/her last illness or after death or within 14 days prior to death
- if the cause of death is uncertain
- if death was sudden, violent or caused by an accident
- if the death occurred while undergoing an operation
- if death was caused by an industrial disease
- if death occurs in police custody/prison
- if the patient has spent less than 24 hours in hospital
- All children and young people under the age of 18, even if the death was due to natural causes.

The coroner may arrange for a post-mortem examination of the body to be carried out by a pathologist. The main purpose of this is to ascertain the cause of death. The **consent of the relatives is not needed for this**. They are, however, entitled to be represented at the examination by a doctor. If they are represented, the coroner will, if practicable, tell the relatives the time and place of the examination.

After the post-mortem

If the death was found to be of natural causes then the Coroner's Office will issue a Pink Form (Form 100), this is sent directly to the Registration Office.

To register the death, you should make an appointment with the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the area where the death took place (the registrar is usually based at the Civic Offices or the Town Hall - your doctor, local council, post office, or police station should know the address).

If the cause of death is uncertain or was due to an accident, violence, or industrial disease, then an Inquest will be held.

An Inquest is an enquiry into the medical cause and circumstances of death. It is held in public and sometimes with a jury. It is up to the coroner to decide how to organise the enquiry in a way to best serve the public interest and the interest of the relatives.

It may be important to have a lawyer to represent you if the death was caused by a road accident, or an accident at work, or other circumstances which could lead to a claim for compensation. Contact your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau to see if you can get legal aid for this.

After the inquest, the coroner will give you, free of charge, an Order for Burial (Form 101), this gives permission for the body to be buried and should be given to the funeral director so that the funeral can be held. The coroner will also send a Certificate after

Inquest (form 99), stating the cause of death, to the registrar. This allows the death to be registered.

During public holidays or after office hours the Certificate for Burial (green form) can be obtained from the registrar. Details are at the end of this booklet. Please note that in some cases it may not be possible for the registrar to issue the Burial Order out of hours.

It is recommended that at least four persons be present to help bathe and carry the body. Washing will normally take place at the funeral director's premises.

Designated persons will be contacted by the local mosque to be available and guide the washing and prepare the 'Kafan' (See note 3), it is recommended close family members be present at the ghusl where this is possible.

After performing the 'Janazah' prayer at the mosque or at the cemetery, if facilities are available there, the body is taken in a coffin to the graveyard. The last time for burial in Manchester is usually 3.00 p.m.

Certain cemeteries do not allow coffin boxes to be opened at the graveyard. Therefore to ensure that the head of the deceased is facing the 'Qibla' and where it is in relation to the coffin, make sure this is done before closing the coffin and before entering the cemetery.

Some cemeteries are now allowing bodies to be buried without using a 'wooden' coffin so that Muslims can be buried in the 'Kafan' only. In most cases, prior arrangements have to be made to do this. Please check with your local council cemetery department. There are also now several private Muslim burial sites throughout the UK. Muslim funeral directors will have details of these.

Important Footnotes

(1) Living will:

in the event of families with people of different faiths, it is important to respect the wishes of the deceased and their faith at the time of death. It is strongly advised that a "living will" and/ or a "statutory declaration" (person's advance decision on medical treatment and burial) is made. This allows a person to inform medical staff, carers and family, how they want to be treated medically and when they die. Although this can be very difficult to discuss, it is necessary in order to avoid conflicts about what kind of treatment is to be administered and how the funeral should be performed.

(2) Organ donation:

This is a very sensitive issue and one which is very difficult for people to consider. The reality is that there are many people who are living their lives in pain and suffering in the hope of getting vital organs replaced. Whilst there are mixed opinions in the Muslim world on this issue, there is a significant opinion among Islamic jurists that organ donations to help save lives is permissible. Ultimately the decision lies with the individual. It is critical therefore that this is made known through donor cards, and informing family and carers, as the timescale for removing organs for them to be of use to another person is limited (further information can be obtained through your local hospital).

(3) The right of bathing the deceased belongs primarily to the closest relatives as the last act of kindness for their loved one. However this can also be performed by a person of trust and good character, of the same gender. Courses on **preparation for death and ghusl** are run by various Muslim organisations and individuals which can be accessed through mosques and Islamic centres locally and through websites.

(4) Stillbirth and Miscarriages:

In the case of a miscarriage or stillbirth the foetus, if less than 120 days (17 weeks), is simply shrouded and given a burial. After 120 days (17 weeks or more) if born with no signs of life it is again simply shrouded and given a burial. If the baby was born alive and subsequently died it is given a full funeral and a burial. If the baby shows any sign of life it must be referred to the Coroner.

Quick Overview

Process for burial within normal hours

Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm

Death occurs

Obtain death certificate

Make appointment to register death

Contact funeral arranger

Funeral arranger organises grave at cemetery

Ghusl performed

Janazah (funeral prayer)

Burial

Process for burial out of hours

Saturday 9am to 12pm

Sunday 10am to 2.30pm

Bank holiday 9am to 2.30pm

Death occurs

Obtain death certificate

Contact funeral arranger/ registrar out of hours

Funeral arranger to make appointment with registrar

Applicant and funeral arranger meet with the registrar

Funeral arranger organises grave at cemetery

Ghusl performed

Janazah (funeral prayer)

Burial

Notes: If the deceased is being buried within 24 hours for religious reasons, the registrar will issue the green form without registering death, to enable the deceased to be buried. It is a **legal requirement** that in such circumstances the death is registered as soon as practicable, and within 28 days.

These times are for Manchester City Registration Office, out of hours these times may vary with our district offices and should be checked directly with the relevant office.

(This guide has been adapted from MBCOL guidance)

Mosque contact details

Those with Ghusl facilities indicated with (G). Please note there are numerous Masajids (Mosques) within the Greater Manchester area, for practical purposes this is a list of some of the main Masajids and funeral support providers.

UKIM - Jamia Masjid e Khizra Mosque (G)

425 Cheetham Hill Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester,

☎ 0161 205 6662

Jamia Masjid Ibad Ur Rahman Trust (G)

Woodlands Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester M8 9LF

☎ 0161 7403696

Khalil Hussain – Main Funeral Director for Manchester Dar-ul-Uloom Islamia Education and Cultural Centre (G)

1 Hawkhurst Road, Longsight, Manchester,

☎ 0161 256 2812

✉ darululoomfuneral@hotmail.co.uk

Al Hussain Mosque and Shia Welfare Centre (G)

54 Bellot Street, Cheetham Hill, Manchester

☎ 0161 277 9695

☎ Imtiaz Kazmi 07866636907

✉ imtiaz.kazmi@hotmail.com

Manchester Central Mosque (G)

20 Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester

☎ 0161 224 4119

Jamia Masjid e Khizra Mosque

21-25 Parker Street, Bury, Lancs BL9 0RJ

☎ 0161 763 6884

Noor – ul – Islam MASJID

2-4 Yarwood Street, Bury, Lancs BL9 7AU

☎ 0161 705 2891

Rizwan Muslim Funeral Services'

Jarvis Street, Jarvis House, Glodwick, Oldham OL14 1DT

☎ 0161 621 0200 / 0161 627 2067

(Provide full funeral service). Contact Rizwan Mohammed or Nazia Saleem (if you wish to speak to a female).

UKIM Oldham Mosque

44 Manchester Road, Werneth, Oldham OL9 7AP

Tahir Mahmood, Rochdale Council of Mosques

48B Drake Street, Rochdale OL16 1NZ

☎ 07976614519

✉ info@rochegroup.co.uk

Bolton Council of Mosques

1 Vicarage Street, Bolton BL3 5LE

☎ 01204 363680

✉ info@thebcom.org

Registration offices:

MANCHESTER Register Office

Heron House, 47 Lloyd Street, Manchester M2 5LE

☎ 0161 234 5555

(OUT OF HOURS SERVICE: 07720913958)

BOLTON Register Office

Mere Hall, Merehall Street, BOLTON BL1 2QT

☎ 01204 331185, 01204 525125

✉ bolton@bolton.gov.uk

BURY Register Office

Town Hall, Manchester Road, BURY BL9 0SW

☎ 0161 253 6026, 0161 253 6028

✉ Registeroffice@bury.gov.uk

MACCLESFIELD Register Office

Park Green, MACCLESFIELD SK11 6TW

☎ 01270 375 106, 01270 375 107

✉ macclesfieldregisteroffice@cheshire.gov.uk

OLDHAM Register Office

Chadderton Town Hall, Middleton Road, Chadderton,

OLDHAM OL9 6PP

☎ 0161 770 8960, 0161 911 3729

✉ env.registrars@oldham.gov.uk

ROCHDALE Register Office

Town Hall, Vickers Gate, ROCHDALE OL16 1AB

☎ 01706 924 784, 01706 924 786

✉ register.office@rochdale.gov.uk

SALFORD Register Office

Town Hall, Chorley Road, Swinton, SALFORD M27 5DA

☎ 0161 909 6501, 0161 793 3826

✉ birthsanddeaths1@salford.gov.uk

STOCKPORT Register Office

Town Hall, John Street Entrance, STOCKPORT SK1 3XE

☎ 0845 644 4311, 0161 474 3390

✉ register.office@stockport.gov.uk

TAMESIDE Register Office

Town Hall, King Street, DUKINFIELD SK16 4LA

☎ 0161 342 5032, 0161 342 5036

✉ tameside.registrars@tameside.gov.uk

TRAFFORD Register Office

Trafford MBC, Sale Town Hall, Sale Waterside, SALE M33 7ZF

☎ 0161 912 3026, 0161 912 3031

✉ registrars@trafford.gov.uk

WIGAN and LEIGH Register Office

Town Hall, Library Street, WIGAN WN1 1NN

☎ 01942 705000, 01942 705013

✉ m.jones@wiganmbc.gov.uk

THIS LEAFLET HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE VOLUNTEER MUSLIM CHAPLAIN FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH MEDICAL DOCTORS AND THE EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS MANAGER. EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE INFORMATION CONTAINED IS UPTO DATE AND ACCURATE AT TIME OF WRITING.

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