

Investigation into post mortem cardiac device interrogation

Request for Information

To garner a comprehensive understanding of the practices and data surrounding patients with cardiac devices, we kindly request the following information:

Q1	How many patients pass through your morgue each year?	DRI – 2345 patients Bassetlaw = 493 patients Mexborough = 2 patients Figures for 2023
Q2	Approximately what proportion of these have a cardiac implantable device in situ? (PPM, ICD, ILR)	Unknown – not recorded
Q3	Does the hospital morgue also take deaths from the community, or is it for inpatients only?	Community deaths and hospital deaths at DRI, hospital deaths only at Bassetlaw and Mexborough
Q4	Is there a cardiac physiology department on site at your hospital?	YES
Q5	If a patient has a cardiac device in situ, is it routine practice for a device check to be undertaken after death?	NO
Q6a	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely added to the patient's notes/hospital record?	NO
Q6b	If yes, is the information regarding rhythm/therapies at the time of death routinely passed on to the clinical team?	NO
Q7	If no and this is not routine practice, are there ever exceptions to this, i.e., occasions where a post-death device check is requested by the clinical team?	YES
Q8	If yes, please elaborate (for example, how often or under what circumstances this occurs).	ICD/CRTD devices are typically reviewed at the time of post-mortem deactivation, with recent arrhythmias and therapies delivered inspected.

We welcome any additional information or comments that might help in our investigation.

We appreciate your assistance and the time taken to provide this information. Your insights are invaluable.