

## Verification of expected death clinical competency

Name:	Role: <b>Band 5/6/7</b>
Base:	Date initial training completed:

### Competency Statement:

The participant must perform this activity without assistance and/or direct supervision (level 3)  
See page 5 for level descriptors

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
<b>The Participant will be able to:</b>				
<b>1. Demonstrate practical knowledge in the verification of death</b>				
a) Demonstrate a clear understanding of professional accountability	Questioning			
b) Demonstrate an understanding of the Verification of Expected Death Policy	Questioning			
c) Recognise potential clinical signs of death	Questioning			
d) Indicate the anatomical landmarks to identify the absence of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• signs of respiration</li> <li>• signs of circulation</li> <li>• heart sounds</li> </ul>	Questioning			
e) Demonstrate awareness of the anatomical regions to administer painful stimuli	Questioning			
f) Demonstrate the ability to examine the response of the pupil to light	Questioning			
<b>2. Verify a death that has been expected</b>				
a) Identify, access and evaluate all patient/carer information and consult with colleagues so that the care pathway and the current circumstances are clearly understood	Direct observation			
b) Accurately identify the patient in line with SHFT guidelines	Direct observation			
c) Identify and greet any carers present and determine their preferences with regard to their role in the procedure and any cultural or religious requirements	Direct observation			
d) Ensure the environment provides for the maximum possible privacy and dignity for the deceased and the carers throughout the procedure	Direct observation			

Performance Criteria	Assessment Method	Level achieved	Date	Assessor/self assessed
e) Assess the patient's vital signs and make a decision as to whether or not s/he has died	Direct observation			
f) Assess the carers' emotional state and respond accordingly throughout the process using visual clues to add to your understanding of the carers' needs, circumstances, choices and preferences	Direct observation			
g) Inform the carers of the death at a pace and level which is appropriate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their care needs, circumstances, choices and preferences</li> <li>• their emotional state</li> <li>• their level of understanding</li> <li>• their culture and background</li> <li>• their preferred way of communicating</li> </ul>	Direct observation			
h) Provide opportunities for the carers to ask any questions and respond appropriately	Direct observation			
i) Inform the carers of the next steps in the process and of the range of options available to them, taking account of their preferences and any cultural or religious requirements	Direct observation			
j) Provide the carers with supporting and appropriate information and how to obtain further information and/or support	Direct observation			
k) Record the verification of the death according to SHFT policy and inform appropriate professional colleagues of the death and other relevant circumstances	Direct observation			
l) Recognise when to seek advice and support from an appropriate source when the complexity of the case is beyond level of competence and/or capability	Direct observation			

Source Care of a Patient After Their Death Policy SHFT 2013

Date all elements of Competency Tool completed to level 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Nurse \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Status \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that I have assessed the above named Registered Nurse and can verify that he/she demonstrates competency in verification of death

Assessor \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Status \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

