

## Guidance: New process in England for notifying neonatal deaths to CDOPs

In response to requests from Trusts in England to reduce the amount of duplicate reporting of perinatal deaths, a new process for notifying neonatal deaths to Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs) has been developed called **Cascade**. Cascade combines the notification of neonatal deaths to MBRRACE-UK and CDOPs into a single step. Cascade will be launched on **8<sup>th</sup> January 2025** and the new process will apply in England from this date.

---

### Important information about the new Cascade process in England

Cascade will be launched on **8<sup>th</sup> January 2025** and the new process will apply from this date.

---

#### What are the changes to the process for notifying neonatal deaths to MBRRACE-UK and CDOPs?

- All neonatal deaths (babies born alive at 20 weeks gestation or greater who die up to 28 days after birth) will only need to be notified once to MBRRACE-UK; a separate notification for CDOP will not be required.
- Notification of neonatal deaths to CDOPs, via the MBRRACE-UK system, will need to occur within two working days of the death, where a working day is defined as Monday to Friday and excludes bank holidays. This is a statutory requirement; the timing of notifications to CDOPs has not changed.
- There are some questions which are required for the CDOP notification which have been added into the MBRRACE-UK notification. These will appear in a separate section of the MBRRACE-UK notification (see screenshots below).

#### Deaths which cannot be notified via Cascade

- Deaths of live born babies born at less than 20 weeks gestation cannot be notified via Cascade
- Unattended stillbirths in the community need to be notified to the CDOP but cannot be notified via Cascade
- Both these types of deaths must be referred to CDOP. As they currently are, they must be manually notified via the relevant eCDOP notification form or by email if the CDOP does not use the eCDOP system.

#### Are notifications of stillbirths and late miscarriages affected by this change?

- Notifications of stillbirths and late miscarriages are not affected and will still need to be made to MBRRACE-UK within seven working days.

#### What happens after a neonatal death has been notified to MBRRACE-UK?

- The MBRRACE-UK notification will be automatically forwarded to the appropriate CDOP and then on to the National Child Mortality Database (NCMD). A new column on the MBRRACE-UK case management system will indicate the date when a notification to the CDOP was made and by whom.
- Following the neonatal death notification, you will still need to provide the additional information that the CDOP requires using your current systems for data provision. You will also need to continue to complete the surveillance information required by MBRRACE-UK and the PMRT where relevant.

## Who can notify a death?

- The person making the notification will need to be an authorised user of the MBRRACE-UK system. The authorisation is for individuals. Authorisation is via your Trust using the form which can be downloaded from [the MBRRACE-UK website](#) (not the MBRRACE-UK reporting website).
- Someone in every Trust already has access to the MBRRACE-UK system and is already notifying neonatal deaths to MBRRACE-UK.
- If you are responsible for making the neonatal death notifications to MBRRACE-UK please make contact with the staff member(s) in your Trust responsible for notifying to CDOP, to ensure that everyone is aware of these changes and avoid continuing duplication of effort.
- If you are responsible for making the notification to the CDOP, please make contact with the staff member in your Trust who is responsible for notifying MBRRACE-UK, to ensure that they are following the guidance to notify neonatal deaths within two working days (as defined above). Alternatively, complete an authorisation form to become an MBRRACE-UK user and make an internal arrangement with your MBRRACE-UK counterpart that you will continue to notify CDOP.

If you have any questions please email: [mbrrace.support@npeu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:mbrrace.support@npeu.ox.ac.uk)

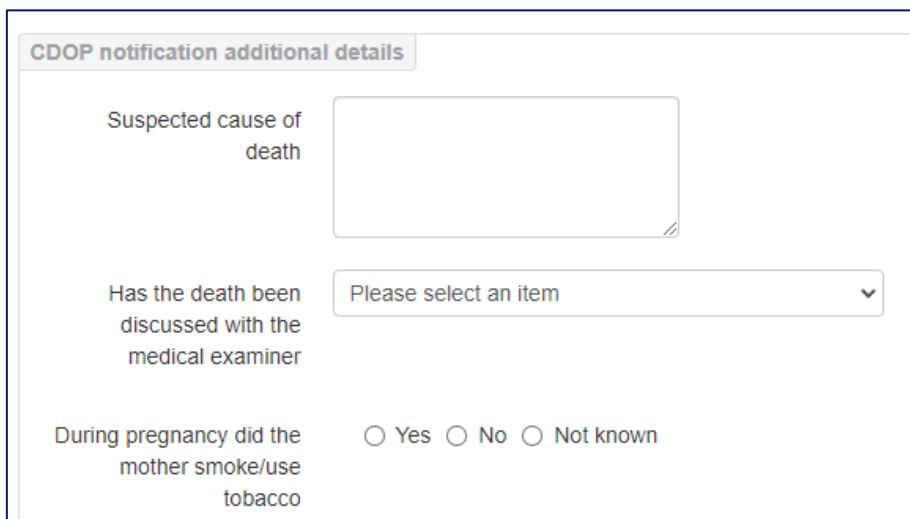
## Guidance for CDOPs

Guidance about Cascade for CDOPs is available on the NCMD website:

<https://www.ncmd.info/uncategorised/the-cascade-integrated-system>

## Specific CDOP questions with screenshots of how they will appear on MBRRACE-UK

These questions will only be shown when a neonatal death is being notified:



The screenshot shows a form titled "CDOP notification additional details" with three questions:

- Suspected cause of death**: A text input field.
- Has the death been discussed with the medical examiner**: A dropdown menu with the text "Please select an item" and a downward arrow.
- During pregnancy did the mother smoke/use tobacco**: Three radio buttons labeled "Yes", "No", and "Not known".

**Significant household and family members**

Partner's given name

Partner's family name

Partner's date of birth

Partner's relationship to child

Does the partner live in the same household as the mother  Yes  No  Not known

How many siblings did this baby have

**Sibling 1**

Sibling's given name

Sibling's family name

Siblings's date of birth

Does sibling live with mother/child  Yes  No  Not known

## Circumstances

Please provide a brief narrative summary of what happened to the baby. This should include any information you have on medical conditions the baby had, any obstetric complications the mother experienced and whether the baby was cared for in multiple departments or transferred between multiple hospitals. It should also include a description of how the baby died e.g. "At Day 12 of life the baby experienced an acute deterioration in condition and despite maximal efforts could not be resuscitated." and what immediate support has been offered to parents.

Outline of the circumstances leading to this notification

## Involved professionals details

*Click on Speciality type to add/edit name and contact details*

Speciality	Not known	Name(s)	Contact details
Neonatologist	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Obstetrician	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Delivery midwife	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community midwife	<input type="checkbox"/>		
GP	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

## CDOP notification

The notification will be forwarded automatically to CDOP ;