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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2010 No. 659**

**The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010**

**Duty to notify suspected disease, infection or contamination in dead persons**

3.—(1) A registered medical practitioner (R) must notify the proper officer of the relevant local authority where R has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a person (P) whom R is attending has died whilst—

- (a) infected with a notifiable disease;
- (b) infected with a disease which, in the view of R, presents or could present, or presented or could have presented (whilst P was alive), significant harm to human health; or
- (c) contaminated in a manner which, in the view of R, presents or could present, or presented or could have presented (whilst P was alive), significant harm to human health.

(2) The notification must include the following information insofar as it is known to R—

- (a) P's name, date of birth and sex;
- (b) P's date of death;
- (c) P's home address including postcode;
- (d) P's place of residence at time of death (if different from home address);
- (e) P's NHS number;
- (f) P's occupation at time of death (if R considers it relevant);
- (g) the name, address and postcode of P's place of work or education at the time of death (if R considers it relevant);
- (h) P's relevant overseas travel history;
- (i) P's ethnicity;
- (j) the disease or infection which P had or is suspected of having had or the nature of P's contamination or suspected contamination;
- (k) the date of onset of P's symptoms;
- (l) the date of R's diagnosis; and
- (m) R's name, address and telephone number.

(3) The notification must be provided in writing within 3 days beginning with the day on which R forms a suspicion under paragraph (1).

(4) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), if R considers that the case is urgent, notification must be provided orally as soon as reasonably practicable.

(5) In determining whether the case is urgent, R must have regard to—

- (a) the nature of the suspected disease, infection or contamination;
- (b) the ease of spread of that disease, infection or contamination;
- (c) the ways in which the spread of the disease, infection or contamination can be prevented or controlled; and
- (d) P's circumstances (including age, sex and occupation).

(6) This regulation does not apply where R reasonably believes that the proper officer of the relevant local authority has already been notified with regard to P and the suspected disease, infection or contamination by another registered medical practitioner in accordance with this regulation or regulation 2(1).

(7) In this regulation—

“notifiable disease” has the same meaning it has in regulation 2; and

“relevant local authority” means the local authority within whose area R attended P on the occasion of forming a suspicion under paragraph (1).