A Guide - Resident who dies whilst under a DoLS (Deprivation of
Liberty Safeguards) – Involvement of HM Coroner

- Any resident who dies whilst under a DoLS will need to have an inquest even
  when the death is as a result of natural causes
- If the death is expected and/or due to natural causes the body can be
  released to the appointed funeral director as long as a GP would be in a
  position to issue a certificate, for example when there is no other reason that
  the death needs reporting such as falls, surgery etc.
- Form 12 - Notification to HM Coroner must be completed and forwarded as
  soon as possible to ensure that the required steps are completed and that
  there is minimal impact on the family.
- An identification needs to be completed (Standard form provided) by the
  attending GP or care home staff/NOK if present.

Please follow the guidance below for ease of reference

Patient dies and a DoLS application has been made
-- regardless of whether or not it has been authorised --
must be reported

Is death expected and/or as a result of natural causes?

Yes
Body can be released to appointed funeral director --
Form 12 to HMCO and advise GP that the death
needs to be reported – complete ID (DoLS witness
statement)

No
Staff must call 101 and
request police attendance –
report to HMC and tell police
subject to DoLS

GP reports death to HM Coroner’s
Officers (HMCO)

Application made but no
standard authorisation in
place and not under Urgent
Authorisation (7 calendar
days expired)

Death whilst Urgent Authorisation
or Standard Authorisation in place
and valid

GP can issue a
medical certificate
on direction of HMC
– Coroner’s
involvement ends

An inquest is required as death under a DoLS amounts
to “death in state detention” – the GP will be asked to
complete a letter giving the cause of death to prevent the
need for a post mortem.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE ONLY NEEDS TO BE AN
INQUEST IF THERE IS AN URGENT OR STANDARD
AUTHORISATION IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF DEATH