The Medical Examiner service is being established in England and Wales on a non-statutory basis prior to statutory implementation at some point in 2022.

Medical Examiners assisted by their officers will scrutinise all deaths not investigated by a coroner to ensure accurate and reliable death certification, adherence to the Notification Regulations (2019) for coroner referrals and to give the bereaved a voice for their concerns to be addressed.

In England, Medical Examiners are employed by Acute Trusts and in Wales by NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership.

In this presentation I will put forward the case for a limited and tightly defined role for Medical Examiners in the Learning from Deaths process to avoid undermining their independence and maintaining public confidence. The distinction between independent medical examiner roles in scrutiny and detection should be clearly separate from investigation within health care provider organisations.

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