

Who are the team behind the conference and what do they do during the rest of the year?

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Who we are & what we do

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) - education and training body and a national health board

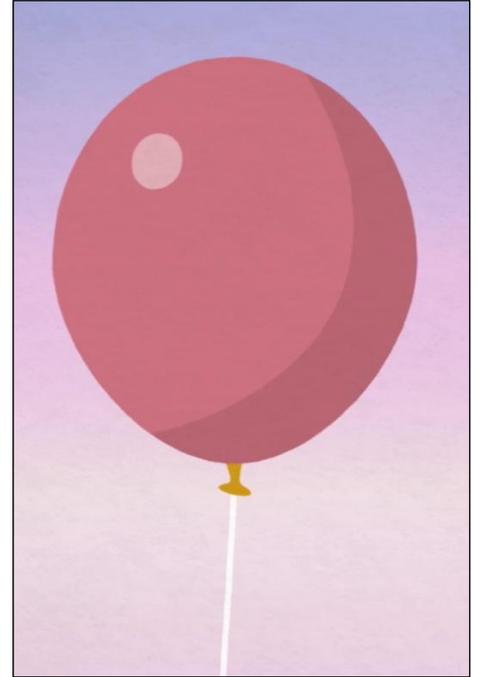
Bereavement Education Programme aim:

To equip health and social care staff with increased preparedness to undertake high-quality bereavement-related care & communication (whilst also considering their wellbeing), through a broad programme of interprofessional educational and workforce development initiatives



2025 10-year anniversary

- Established to develop educational resources to support new death certification legislation in 2011
- The initial focus was on education for medics (due to their role in certifying death)
- A second workstream was then commissioned to focus on bereavement education for all health professionals
- These workstreams then merged together to form the NES Bereavement Education Programme
- The audience for the work has now been broadened to encompass:
 - all health and social care professionals
 - reach across other public sector groups
 - and more recently to include some resources for the general public



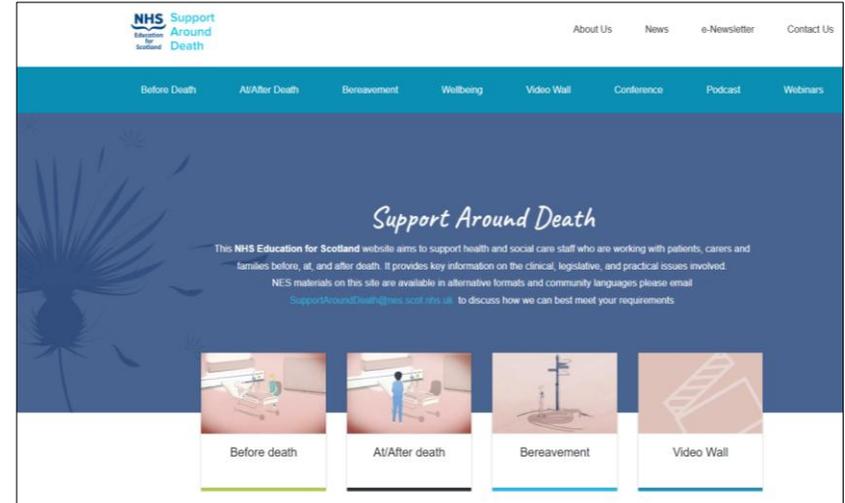
Why bereavement education matters

- Bereavement care & communication with those who are grieving is core business for staff across health and social care
- All are likely to encounter someone who is bereaved, or a situation around the time of a person's death - not only limited to patient / client-facing roles
- Knowing how to manage these situations is important – to support others and look after ourselves
- If poorly handled, there can be the risk of causing additional harm, with negative impact on staff wellbeing



Toolkit of educational resources

- Range of formats
- Developed on a continual basis in response to gaps
- Clinical, legislative, & practical issues
- Some specific to Scottish legislative context
- Care around time of / after death
- Almost all aimed at staff, not those who are bereaved
- Many used across UK & internationally
- Openly accessible



Some examples of available resources

Supporting LGBTQ+ People around Bereavement

- Engagement from wide range stakeholders, including colleagues from Equality Network
- Development of a bespoke page on our website and concise supporting written leaflet



Death Certification

- Wide range educational materials developed
- Mainly aimed at certifying doctors
- E.g. Two e-Learning modules:
 1. Deaths in the community
 2. Improving the Quality of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death: Avoiding Errors

The screenshot shows a web-based e-learning interface. On the left is a teal sidebar with a search icon and a menu icon. The sidebar title is 'Improving the Quality of Medical Certificates of Cause of Death: Avoiding Errors' and it indicates '25% COMPLETE'. The menu items are: Introduction (checked), Scenario 1 (checked), Scenario 2 (unchecked), Scenario 3 (checked), Scenario 4 (unchecked), Scenario 5 (unchecked), Scenario 6 (unchecked), Scenario 7 (unchecked), Scenario 8 (unchecked), Scenario 9 (unchecked), Knowledge Check (unchecked), and Summary (unchecked). The main content area is white and shows 'Lesson 2 of 12' and 'EXIT COURSE' in the top right. The title 'Scenario 1' is centered and underlined. Below the title is a photograph of a traditional white-washed thatched-roof cottage. Under the photo, there are three paragraphs of text describing a case scenario.

Lesson 2 of 12

EXIT COURSE

Scenario 1



A 72-year-old man lived alone with no package of care but was supported by his son who lives nearby.

His son spoke with him at 22:00 as he was going to get ready for bed. His son arrived at his home at 09:10 the following morning to take him to a dermatology appointment. He found him unresponsive on the bathroom floor.

An ambulance was called, paramedics arrived, and he was confirmed dead at 09:32.

Fatal Accident Inquiry

- Guide updated and relaunched in 2025
- Joint badging with NES and Central Legal Office



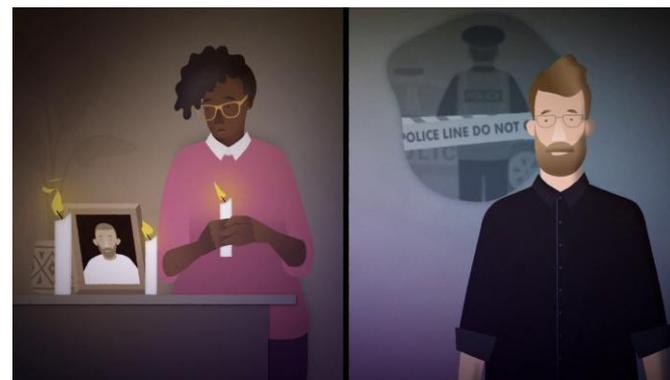
Sudden death of a doctor or dentist in training

- Commissioned by Conference Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMeD)
- COPMeD Senior Managers Forum and PG Deans across the UK dealing with the sudden death of a doctor in training found there was often confusion around:
 - Correct protocol
 - How to deal with this at an emotional level for everyone involved
- Working together with 4 UK nations Development Group and Expert Advisory Group to deliver learning materials which address:
 - Practical considerations
 - How to support each other
- Developed for use across UK, informed by evidence and lived experience
 - E-Learning resource
 - Animated films
 - Case studies
 - Teaching session outline



Subjects include

- Sudden Death
- Introduction to grief and bereavement
- On first hearing the news
- Initial communication and practical tasks
- Support and wellbeing
- Condolence letters
- Longer term response
- Communication including social media
- Postvention support and guidance



Bereavement in the workplace

- Materials for line managers and team leaders
- Supporting staff impacted by bereavement, e.g. the death of a patient or person they've been caring for, death of a colleague, and / or following a personal bereavement



Short animated films



Anticipatory grief



Discussing dying



Intrauterine death



Coping with death and bereavement



Death of a colleague



Supporting families around resuscitation



Unsuccessful neonatal resuscitation



Talking to children who are bereaved



Being with people who are bereaved



Delivering news of a death by phone



Body donation (Scotland)



Death certification (Scotland)



Withdrawal of active treatment in ITU

Dealing with the death of a colleague



<https://vimeo.com/833671191>

Case study films

- Real life stories from staff across health & social care
- Clinical and non-clinical staff
- Anonymised and voiced by actors
- A tool to support reflection and discussion



Perspective of a Porter Experiencing Bereavement in the Workplace

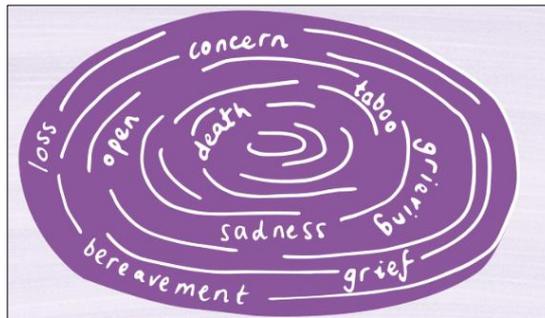


<https://vimeo.com/906402467>

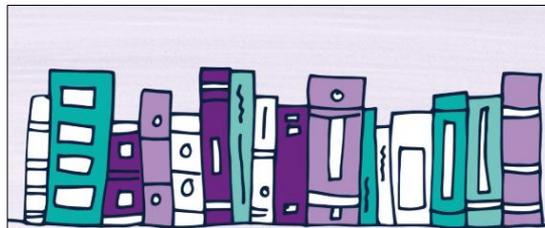
Bereavement 'basics' e-module package

Aims to provide staff with a broad coverage of topics related to grief and bereavement at an introductory level

- Exploring Bereavement:
 1. **Where to Begin**
 2. **Theories and Foundations**
 3. **Processes and Procedures After a Death**
- Applying Bereavement Knowledge:
 4. **Anticipatory Grief**
 5. **Supporting Others**
 6. **Staff Wellbeing**



Exploring Bereavement: Where to Begin



Exploring Bereavement: Theories and Foundations

Talking about Bereavement Podcast

- Opportunity to share information, connect & encourage conversations
- Hear from guests who share their experiences, thoughts & reflections
- Our purpose is to put people at the heart of bereavement care combined with a values-based aim to support health & social care staff to do that for the people in their care
- Available on Spotify & Podbean



Getting Bereavement Right Every time

- New learning session developed
- Two already taken place, each attracting approx. 500 delegates
- Next: **Thurs, 26th Feb 2026**
- All health, social care, social work, third sector, local government etc. staff welcome



**Getting Bereavement Right
Every Time**
Virtual Learning Session

Target audience

All health and social care staff

Date & Time

Thurs 26 Feb 2026
13:00-15:00

Registration

For further details & to register please visit:
<https://shorturl.at/QGIYM>



Registration deadline:
19 Feb 2026

If you have any queries please contact:
events@nes.scot.nhs.uk



All health and social care staff are likely to come into contact with someone who is bereaved, or a situation around the time of a person's death. This includes those working in non-clinical, administrative and other support roles, as well as staff in teams which are directly patient or client-facing.

Knowing how to manage these situations is important – so we can support and help other people, whilst also looking after our own wellbeing. But thinking of what to say to someone who is bereaved, whether that be a family member, patient, person who we are supporting, or perhaps a colleague may feel daunting.

This session will provide an introduction to grief and bereavement. It may help attendees feel more confident in answering questions e.g.:

- What should I say to someone who tells me they have recently been bereaved?
- Are there particular words I should or shouldn't use?
- What if I say the 'wrong' thing?
- Is it normal to be upset if someone we know from work dies?

Annual conferences

Year	Title	Keynote Speakers
2024	Bereavement in the modern world: Kindness in the chaos	Dr Rachel Gibbons
2023	The Grief We Carry	Cariad Llyod Dr Rachel Clarke
2022	Exploring bereavement from a new perspective	Michael Rosen The Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE
2021	The changing face of bereavement: providing care and maintaining our own wellbeing during the pandemic	Dr Gwenetta Curry Dr Matthew Walton
2019	Starting with the end in mind; A realistic approach to bereavement and resilience	Dr Donald Macaskill Adam Kay

Discussing dying



<https://vimeo.com/170436673>



Website: <http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/>



Podcast: 'Talking about Bereavement'
<https://shorturl.at/eYHYA>



e-Newsletter: <http://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/e-newsletter/>



Email: SupportAroundDeath@nes.scot.nhs.uk

This resource may be made available, in full or summary form, in alternative formats and community languages. Please contact us on **0131 656 3200** or email **altformats@nes.scot.nhs.uk** to discuss how we can best meet your requirements.



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