

FOI240 Response

Request

a) where Covid-19 is listed as the direct cause of death (ie: which would fall in Section Ia of the MCCD) - how many between 1st February 2020 and 30th November 2020

b) where Covid-19 is listed as the **only** contributing or underlying cause of death (ie: which would fall in section Ib or Ic of the MCCD) - how many between 1st February 2020 and 30th November 2020

c) where other conditions or diseases existed, which were underlying or contributing causes of death as well as Covid-19 (ie: which would fall within section I - b or c of the MCCD) - how many between 1st February 2020 and 30th November 2020

Source for the following: Section 4.1

of https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877302/guidance-for-doctors-completing-medical-certificates-of-cause-of-death-covid-19.pdf

For example, in the table below, Covid-19 is listed as an underlying/contributing cause of death. The note above the table states the table as an example from the cause of death section from an MCCD where COVID-19 is 'underlying cause of death'. I note how the word 'the' has been omitted. I also note that primary adenocarcinoma of ascending colon is also listed as a contributing/underlying cause of death BUT because the patient died directly from Interstitial pneumonitis, it seems that Covid-19 is taken as the underlying cause rather than the cancer. The cancer is not even taken as a joint cause of death. However, it is, I am assuming, a co-morbidity which therefore would place the example in the table as falling within (c) within my research query...

These points are interesting to me as is the explanation given in Section 4.1 of the below mentioned document, where I read: "Most routine mortality statistics are based on the underlying cause."

Examples of cause of death section from MCCDs (including example of COVID-19 as underlying cause of death):

Cause of death the disease or condition thought to be the underlying cause should appear in the lowest completed line of part I	
I	I(a) Disease or condition leading directly to death <i>Interstitial pneumonitis</i>
	(b) other disease or condition, if any, leading to I(a) <i>COVID-19</i>
	(c) other disease or condition, if any, leading to I(b) <i>primary adenocarcinoma of ascending colon</i>
II	Other significant conditions Contributing to death but not related to the disease or condition causing it <i>diabetes mellitus</i>

Response

Between 1st February to 20th November there are Nil (0) patients within the Trust's inpatient wards that have died from contracting the Covid-19 virus.

Please note that the Trust cannot confirm if deaths within our community patients have been attributed to solely contracting the Covid-19 virus or secondary to any other illness.

This is because the data that is captured for Covid-19 deaths within our community patients contains variances and therefore do not accurately depict the cause of death.