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To:  
Trust Chief executives  
Trust Chief Operating Officers  
Regional Heads of ICC  
Regional CPNS leads

27 April 2020

Dear colleague

## **COVID-19 Patient Notification System (CPNS)**

CPNS has been the single reporting route for the reporting of COVID-19 related deaths since 24 March. To date, this has recorded hospital deaths where patients have had a positive test result for COVID-19.

From 28 April 2020 onwards, there will be a change to reporting, to include the reporting of death where there is an absence of a COVID-19 positive test result but where COVID-19 is documented as a direct or underlying cause of death on part 1 or part 2 of the death certification process. Deaths with no link to COVID-19, through either a positive test result or a formally recorded mention of COVID-19 in the death registration, will continue to be out of scope and so should not be recorded.

This change and expansion in reporting is to give us a faster, more comprehensive view of the position on overall COVID-19 deaths in hospitals.

### **Data capture – changes to data systems**

On the CPNS provider input screen, users will now be able to indicate the following:

- Positive COVID-19 test result
- Negative COVID-19 test result
- COVID-19 test not carried out
- COVID-19 test result not known

For any field selected other than a positive test result, there will be a drop-down box relating to the recording of COVID-19, where this has been recorded (as either part 1 or 2) on the death certification notice.



Patients who have a negative swab and do not have COVID-19 entered on the death certification notice, would not be included in this data set.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Willett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Professor Keith Willett**  
**NHS Strategic Incident Director**  
**NHS England and NHS Improvement**