

If a loved one dies in hospital, here's what happens and what you need to do:

1. Hospital staff will confirm the death

A doctor will officially confirm the person has died. They'll take care of the first steps, so you don't have to.

2. You'll be informed

The hospital will contact the next of kin. If you're not there when it happens, they'll let you know and arrange to contact you later.

3. You'll get the Medical Certificate

This certificate shows the cause of death. You'll need it to register the death. The hospital will either give it to you or send it to you by post.

4. Ask about viewing and collecting belongings

You can usually see your loved one in the hospital's chapel of rest. Ask staff about personal items and how to collect them.

5. Choose a funeral director

Once the hospital gives clearance, the funeral director can collect the body and take over care.

6. Register the death

You must register the death within 5 days. Contact the local Register Office. Bring:

- The Medical Certificate
- ID and personal details of the person who died

7. Take care of other things

Let people and services know — like banks, the DWP, and the local council. The hospital may help with some of this.

If you're unsure or overwhelmed, ask the hospital's bereavement team — they're there to support you.