

Compassionate conversations: perinatal post-mortem consent taking

Training for healthcare professionals working in maternity services and neonatal care services

Half-day workshop

9.00am-12.30pm or 1.00pm-4.30pm

Overview

This workshop is designed to help healthcare professionals build the skills required to conduct empathetic, respectful, and effective conversations with bereaved parents about perinatal post-mortem examination.

The workshop provides healthcare professionals with an understanding of national guidance and policies concerning perinatal post-mortem and emphasises the importance of compliance and adherence for ethical practice. Participants will consider the purpose of perinatal post-mortem examinations and discuss the range of options available, equipping them with information to guide families with clarity through their decisions. The workshop explores the principles of having psychosocially safe conversations; and the development of skills such as empathy, clear and compassionate communication, respecting autonomy, exploring personal perspectives to avoid unconscious bias, and facilitating informed decision-making. Practical exercises and case studies enable participants to refine these skills, practicing compassionate and emotionally supportive patient interactions, across a range of scenarios.

During the workshop participants will:

- › Develop an awareness and understanding of the importance of compliance with local and national policies relating to perinatal post-mortem
- › Discuss the purpose and available options for perinatal postmortem examination
- › Explore the principles of psychosocially safe conversations, and how to foster emotional well-being in patient interactions by practicing empathy, clear and compassionate communication, respecting autonomy, demonstrating self-awareness and facilitating informed choice
- › Undertake skills practice through case studies and communication exercises

Following the workshop all participants will receive a copy of the materials used and links to various helpful tools and resources.