

New Code

Death using Neurological Criteria (DNC)

MAJOR UPDATES

1. Age Categories

< 37 weeks

37 weeks – 2 years

2 years

DNC cannot be confidently made.

Same as per adults with 3 caveats:

- I. 24 hrs before testing
- II. 24 hrs between testing
- III. No ancillary investigation.

Criteria as per adults.

2. Apnoea Test

Start. $\text{PaCO}_2 \geq 5.3 \text{ KPa}$

End. $\text{PaCO}_2 \geq 8.0 \text{ kPa}$, $\text{pH} < 7.3$ + Rise $\text{PaCO}_2 \geq 2.7 \text{ kPa}$

Time. Minimum 5 minutes

3. Time of Death

Completion of the second set of clinical tests.

January 2025



A Code of practice
for the diagnosis and
confirmation of death
2025 Update

1st January 2025



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Death using Neurological Criteria (DNC) OTHER SIGNIFICANT UPDATES/CLARIFICATIONS

Greater alignment rest of the world

4. Temperature 36 °C

5. Both eyes, both ears must be examinable

Other / Clarifications

- Who
 - Full registration GMC 5 years **or equivalent**
 - Up to 4 doctors
- Preconditions more specific and the 8 'red flags' incorporated into preconditions.
- Peripheral nerve stimulator use.
- Minimum sodium concentration as a precondition for testing increased from 115 to 125 mmol/L.
- Expanded ancillary investigation guidance.