Dr Ellen Makings MBBS, FRCA, FFICM, RCPathME is the Regional Medical Examiner for the East of England and Lead Medical Examiner at the Royal Papworth Hospital.  She has been a Consultant in Anaesthetics & Intensive Care for 15 years at Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust where she was then appointed as Medical Director in 2017. Her areas of interest in Critical Care are patient safety and recovery from critical illness.  She has been a Medical Examiner at Mid Essex for 8 years, one of the original Department of Health pilot sites for the Medical Examiner system.

In 2019 she was appointed as Regional Medical Examiner. She is passionate about the Medical Examiner process and its contribution to patient safety. She is a member of the Faculty of the Royal College of Pathologists providing the training of future Medical Examiners and Medical Examiner Officers. She is the Lead Medical Examiner for the Royal Papworth Hospital who are providing Medical Examiner services for Cambridgeshire community deaths as well as Royal Papworth.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, she has been the Clinical Lead for the Covid-19 Critical Care Cell NHSI/E East of England and in July 2021 appointed as Medical Director for System Improvement.

She is also a member of the East of England Senate Council.

The medical examiner system was recommended by the Shipman, Mid Staffordshire and Morecambe Bay public enquiries. A national system of medical examiners was rolled out in England and Wales to provide much-needed support for bereaved families and to improve patient safety. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/establishing-medical-examiner-system-nhs/>

The Royal College of Pathologists is the lead medical royal college for medical examiners and plays a key role in the training of medical examiners and medical examiner officers, as well as working closely with the National Medical Examiner on implementation of the service. <https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners.html>

Over 1500 medical examiners and medical examiner officers have been trained since 2019, and the College continues to provide regular training days and continuing professional development opportunities.

<https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners/medical-examiner-training.html>

Medical examiners are employed in the NHS system by acute trusts in England, and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership in Wales. The Good Practice Series is a topical collection of focused summary documents, designed to be easily read and digested by busy front-line staff, with links to further reading, guidance and support.

<https://www.rcpath.org/profession/medical-examiners/good-practice-series.html>

During the Coronavirus pandemic, medical examiners have played a vital role in supporting the bereaved and the death certification process. This has been enabled by the Coronavirus Act 2020 allowing changes to the death certification process. [Briefing template (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/COVID-19-act-excess-death-provisions-info-and-guidance-31-march.pdf)

The medical examiner system is now extending to cover non acute deaths occurring in community settings, this is in preparation for when the medical examiner system becomes statutory and that every non coronial death must be scrutinised by a medical examiner

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/B0477-extending-medical-examiner-scrutiny-to-non-acute-settings.pdf>

[NHS England » Information for primary care on extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-coronial deaths in the community](https://www.england.nhs.uk/establishing-medical-examiner-system-nhs/non-coronial-deaths-in-the-community/)