

2. Aim of study and method

Case identification & data collection

Cases were identified by coronial staff from all coroners' offices in the participating countries. The following data were requested from coroners' offices for each case included in the study:

- The autopsy report.
- Supporting documentation. This referred to any documents that were issued to the pathologists by the coroner prior to the autopsy taking place. This may include (but was not limited to):
 - written instruction to the pathologist to perform an autopsy;
 - coroner's summary report;
 - police report (e.g. sudden death report, scene examination);
 - ambulance service forms;
 - clinical summary or copies of medical notes (if available on the coroner's file).

NCEPOD were unable to take cognisance of any oral information provided to the pathologists, e.g. by the attendance of a coroner's officer at the autopsy who passes oral information to the pathologist.