

GUIDELINE IN THE EVENT OF A CHILD DEATH

INTRODUCTION	4
SCOPE AND AIM OF THE GUIDELINE	4
DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	4
1. WHEN A CHILD DIES	4
1.1 VERIFICATION OF DEATH	4
1.2 INFORMING THOSE WITH PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEATH:	5
1.3 SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS	5
CHAPLAINCY REFERRAL	6
ELECTRONICALLY ACCESS 'REFERRAL TO CHAPLAINCY SERVICES'	6
1.4 SUPPORTING THE FAMILY:	6
1.4.3 PERSONAL CARE OF THE CHILD	7
FOR CHILD DEATH CORONERS CASE INVESTIGATIONS	7
FOR THOSE CHILDREN WHO WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO POST MORTEM OR CORONERS ENQUIRY	7
1.5 TRANSFER OF THE CHILD FROM CLINICAL AREA TO MORTUARY	8
1.6 VIEWING AT THE MORTUARY	9
1.7 EARLY BURIAL ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS	9
1.8 ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSFER TO CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT SUITE	9
CLAIRE HOUSE HOSPICE	10
1.9 ARRANGEMENT FOR TRANSFER TO THEIR HOME ADDRESS	10
1.10 ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER OF THE CHILD TO THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR	10
1.11 REGISTRATION OF A CHILD'S DEATH	10
THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW PROCESS	11
2. IMMEDIATE DECISION MAKING AND NOTIFICATIONS	12
2.2 WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED	12
2.3 WHAT IMMEDIATE DECISIONS ARE NEEDED?	13
2.4 ISSUING AN MCCD OR REFERRAL TO THE CORONER	13
GUIDANCE FOR CREMATION FORMS	14
2.5 THE POST MORTEM EXAMINATION	14
HTTPS://WWW.HTA.GOV.UK/ (ACCESS SANDS CONSENT)	14
2.6 OTHER NHS NOTIFICATIONS	15
3. INVESTIGATION AND INFORMATION GATHERING	16
3.1 INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES	16
3.2 CORONIAL INVESTIGATION	16
3.3 JOINT AGENCY RESPONSE	17
3.4 NHS SERIOUS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION	18
3.5 CO-ORDINATION ACROSS INVESTIGATIONS	19
4. CHILD DEATH REVIEW MEETING (CDRM)	20
4.1 INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES	20
4.2 AIMS OF THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW MEETING	20
4.3 WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW MEETING?	21
4.4 WHO SHOULD CHAIR THE MEETING?	21
4.5 WHERE SHOULD THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW MEETING BE HELD?	22
4.6 WHEN SHOULD THE MEETING OCCUR?	22
4.7 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN THE CHILD DEATH REVIEW MEETING	22
5. FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND BEREAVEMENT	23
5.1 INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES	23

1.4 Supporting the family:

Bereaved parents or carers should:

1.4.1 Have the opportunity to spend time with the child’s body in a quiet and private environment and be able to assist in the PERSONAL CARE of their Child.

However

It may be deemed necessary to follow ‘The Management of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants & Children (SUDIC)’ where a death occurs within 24 hours of admission or is an unexpected death.

This can be found on the Intranet; ☒ Intranet – Clinical Services-Safeguarding & Complex Care Team – Safeguarding Children & Domestic abuse-Documents, Policies & Procedures <http://doclib.xcoch.nhs.uk/Documents/Sudden Unexpected Death in Infants and Children Protocol.doc>

Potentially (but please discuss individual children with the Coroner)

1.4.2 Have the opportunity to make memories, There are ‘4Louis’ child bereavement boxes stored on the Children’s Unit : - blue, pink & neutral colours.

- Hand and foot prints may be taken using the purpose designed wipes and cards in the bereavement box.
- Clay mould of hand or foot may be completed.
- Locks of hair may be kept as memories if the parents desire, boxes & bags are available in the bereavement box .
- Photographs may be taken; parents sometimes decline this offer & then regret this at a later date. Explain this to parents & even if they do not want to take photographs with them on the day they could collect at a later date.

Medical photography offer a service to the families in working hours ext. **I&S**

There is a paediatric camera for use when medical photography is unavailable for bereavement purposes. Photographs may be taken on digital camera with individual memory stick then processed by medical photography. The memory stick to also be given to family. This camera is kept in the CD cupboard on the Children’s Unit. Inside the box is an SOP, consent forms for parents to sign, measurement guides and a quick how to use guide.

This is **for out of hours use only**, after pictures are taken the camera needs to be then taken to medical photography and they will upload the pictures to PACS and return the camera after deleting the contents.

1.4.3 Personal Care of the Child

There should be no rush to provide personal care taking time for cuddles/contact. Families should also be reassured that there are no specific right or wrong ways in caring for their child after death. They may seek comfort in spending time with their child or wish for nursing staff to carry out further care. It is important to provide families with gentle guidance.

The family should be made aware they can participate in as much or as little of their child’s care after death as they wish for and supported in doing so. It should be ensured the parents basic needs are also met.

It is best practice that two staff members should complete cares for the child, and that cares are delivered that comply with infection control and manual handling guidance.

Author: Specialist Childrens Nurse					EIA Ref:	
Ratified at	Date Approved	Revision No.	Author/Contact	Review Due Date	Uploaded Date	Pages
WCGB	21.07.2022	6.0	Vicki Higgins	21.07.2025	26.08.2022	1 of 40

APPENDIX 3: CHECKLIST FOR STAFF FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF A CHILD

For more information to help you complete this checklist please refer to guideline in the Event of a Child Death

CHILDS NAME:

ID STICKER

HOSPITAL NUMBER:

NHS NUMBER:

FOLLOWING THE DEATH

	Yes No N/A	DATE	SIGNED	COMMENT
VERIFICATION				
Paediatrician to Verify the Childs Death and document in the medical notes Complete Confirmation of Death <i>See below</i>				
NOTIFICATION				
Paediatrician to Notify <u>Coroner</u> of Childs Death Mr Alan Moore In hours – 01 <input type="text" value="I&S"/> Out of hours – call switchboard - <input type="text" value="I&S"/> Safe fax – 01 <input type="text" value="I&S"/> coronersadmin@ <input type="text" value="I&S"/> Coroners Officers coroners@ <input type="text" value="I&S"/> Complete short clinical summary <i>See below</i>				
Paediatrician to Notify parents if not aware, can use police assistance if via # <input type="text" value="I&S"/>				
Paediatrician to complete edischARGE summary – This notifies GP child has died, and marks the child as deceased on Cerner. <i>(In key discharge details select – Discharge method – “Patient Died”; and Discharge destination - “Mortuary”; also ensure to click “Finalise (send electronic copy to GP)</i>				
Paediatrician to Notify Social Care/Safeguarding – NB Looked after Children				
Nurses to Notify Clinical Site Co-ordinator				

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Paediatrician to Notify CDOP (Child Death Overview Panel) https://www.ecdop.co.uk/PANCheshire/Live/Public Child death notification form				
Paediatrician to Notify Child Death review co-ordinator cdop@cheshireeast.gov.uk				
Nurses to Notify silver.controlroom@nhs.net With completed COVID-19 Deceased Notification Form <i>See below</i>				
	Yes No N/A	DATE	SIGNED	COMMENT
NOTIFICATION				
<i>Nurses to complete PAEDIATRIC DEATH NOTIFICATION FORM on Meditech (Go into Assessment, down to Enter Form, down to Paediatric Death Notification Form) Print off completed form this is to stay with the child.</i>				
<i>Nurses to Notify Risk & Safety Lead for W & C Division Ext - I&S</i>				
<i>Nurses to completing a Clinical Incident Form 'Datix'</i>				
<i>Nurses to Notify midwifery supervisor on Ext I&S if a neonatal death</i>				
<i>Nurses to notify other Key Professionals as relevant Eg Specialist Nurses, Care Package, Hospice</i>				
<i>Nurses to notify relevant Religious and or Spiritual representation for child/family 24/7 Hospital Chaplaincy via switch</i>				

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