



# Death of a Child in ED

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## Death of a Child in the Emergency Department

When a child dies unexpectedly from traumatic injuries, the local SUDiC policy should be followed.

In the unfortunate case of an unexpected death of a child each emergency department must have their own local standard operating procedures which should include:

- A standard operating procedure for supporting parents who witness resuscitation with an experienced member of staff.
- A local checklist based on national recommendations
- The consultant paediatrician on call is advised as soon as possible about an unexpected child death
- There is co-operation with Joint Agency Response (JAR) Team and Child Death Overview panels
- A clearly delineated process on how they manage cases of Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood (SUDC) – this should involve liaison between a specialist team and/or the acute medical team and the Police and Children's Social Care (this makes up the JAR Team). This guidance should relate closely to minimum statutory obligations and the recommendations laid out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018).
- The family should be allocated a 'key worker' to support them and help guide them through the processes after their child has died. The key worker should be identified at the JAR meeting
- Every hospital trust should have access to some form of bereavement support for family's and a process by which parents can meet with a relevant Paediatric Consultant to discuss any aspects of their child's care or death, if they wish to do so.

It is important to recognise the importance of supporting staff in managing the death of a child and supporting bereaved parents. All staff involved should be given the opportunities for:

- Debrief,
- Personal reflection
- Supervision (individual or group supervision)

(Intercollegiate Committee for Standards for Children and Young People in Emergency Care Settings, 2012)

Please inform the North West Children's Major Trauma Network Manager of all trauma related child deaths within your department.