

# PRUDiC

## Information for Professionals



**PRUDiC (Procedural Response to Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood) is the multi-agency response to the unexpected death of a child or young person and applies to all unexpected child deaths until their 18th Birthday.**

It is the process which describes how professionals in Wales must respond to the unexpected death of a child, to make sure the response is safe, consistent and sensitive to the needs of the bereaved family.

It is important that all child deaths are carefully reviewed so that we may learn as much as possible, to try to prevent future deaths, and to support families, carers and friends.

An unexpected death is defined as one which was not expected in the previous 24 hours, or before the event that led to the death, for example a road traffic accident or death by suicide and happen in or out of hospital.

Unexpected Deaths are reported to the coroner who will decide whether a post mortem examination is needed and will open an inquest or investigation.

The Regional Safeguarding Boards monitor the PRUDiC processes initiated in their regions and ensure that the procedural response is followed to completion.

The Child Death Review Programme (CDRP) receive information from the PRUDiC process to enable them to determine patterns and trends in child deaths in Wales and to identify opportunities for prevention of deaths.

It is important to note that this process is followed for every unexpected death of a child in Wales.

## What happens:


- The child will be brought to hospital (unless already in hospital) where doctors and the police will ask some questions about what has happened and examine the child.
- The family will be allocated a key worker at this point (which may change after the first PRUDiC meeting).

There are a series of PRUDiC meetings which are attended by health, police, social services, education etc. who share as much information as possible about the child, their death, why it happened and any issues which may prevent further deaths.

- Phase one (usually 0-5 days): Information Sharing and Planning Meeting.
- Phase two (usually 5-28 days): Case Discussion Meeting.
- Phase three (usually within 12 months once final post mortem results are available): Case Review Meeting.

Individuals who do not usually attend PRUDiC meetings should be prepared beforehand to ensure that there is a level of awareness of the likely content and PRUDiC meeting process and some of the issues which are discussed may be distressing.

Families are not able to attend the meetings but their key worker will share information with them and signpost them to support services.



The death of any child is a tragedy for the family and the wider community, and there is support available to both the family and professionals. Please see website below for more information about PRUDiC and support available.

**[phw.nhs.wales/PRUDiC](http://phw.nhs.wales/PRUDiC)**