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In conjunction with all of the Wales  
Regional Safeguarding Boards

**Key worker:** .....

**Contact:** .....

**PRUDiC**

# Information for Families



**This booklet contains information for parents and carers and aims to explain the processes which happen following the unexpected death of a child. The death of any child is a huge tragedy for the family and the wider community, and there is support available to you. Please see link below for further information:**

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

PRUDiC stands for Procedural Response to Unexpected Death in Childhood and 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 happens in or out of hospital.

## What happens:

- Your 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 your child.
- Your family will be allocated a key worker at this point.
- All unexpected Deaths are reported to the coroner who will decide whether a post mortem examination is needed and will open an inquest or investigation.
- It is important to note that all of these professionals are involved in every unexpected death of a child in Wales and this does not mean that your family is being singled out.

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. Information is also shared with the Wales Child Death Review Programme.

- 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.

Families are not able to attend the meetings but your key worker will share information between you and the PRUDiC meetings and signpost you to bereavement support services.

You can start to plan the funeral at any time but you can only hold it once you have the death certificate or appropriate form from the coroner which you should receive from the coroner's officer.

For further support and guidance you can contact your key worker, coroner's officer, the support services below or the bereavement office at your hospital. **[phw.nhs.wales/PRUDiC](https://phw.nhs.wales/PRUDiC)**

