

ED LEADERSHIP FORUM

REVIEW OF PD 2008_070

MANAGEMENT OF SUDI

April Deering
Manager, Priority Populations
For A/Professor Elisabeth Murphy, Senior Clinical
Adviser
13.03.2015

Background

Table 1.1:
Sudden unexpected
deaths in infancy
by cause of death,
NSW, 2000–2002

Source:
NSW Child Death
Review Team, Child
Death Register,
2004a

	n	%
Ill-defined and unknown causes of mortality		
Sudden infant death syndrome	110 ^a	59.1
Other sudden death, cause unknown, and undetermined deaths	37	19.9
Subtotal	147	79.0
Accidental threats to breathing		
Accidental suffocation and strangulation	7	3.8
Other accidental threats to breathing	3	1.6
Subtotal	10	5.4
Diseases and morbid conditions		
Diseases of the respiratory system	8	4.3
Other diseases and morbid conditions	14	7.5
Subtotal	22	11.8
Other external causes		
Assault	2	1.1
Other injury, poisoning or external cause	4	2.2
Exposure to excessive heat	1	0.5
Subtotal	7	3.8
Total	186	100.0

Note: a. Fourteen of these deaths were classified as SIDS associated with co-sleeping.

Major gaps in the information available

Psychosocial information about the infant and family

Clinical history of family and infant

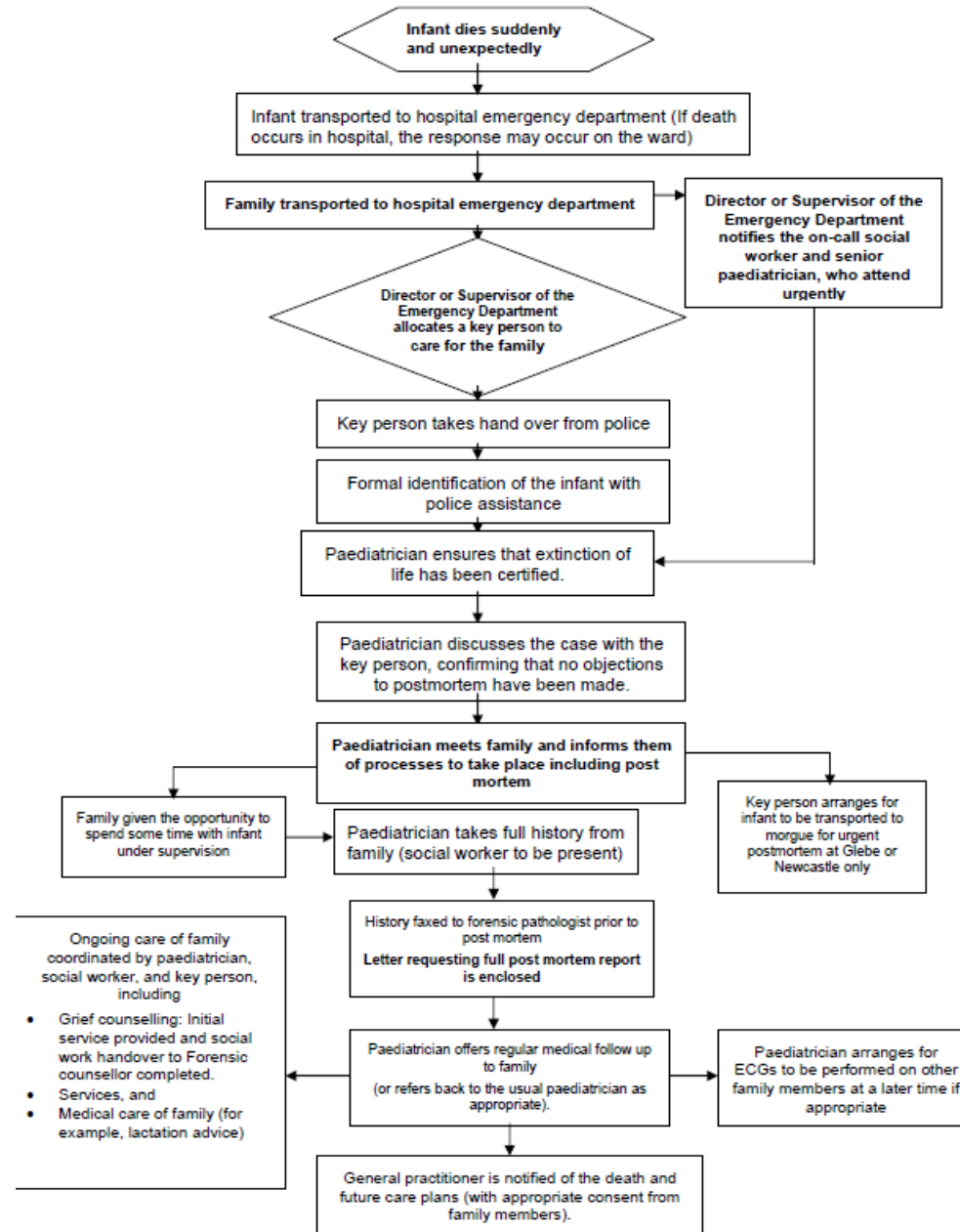
Demographic information about the father, other carers and siblings

Social factors

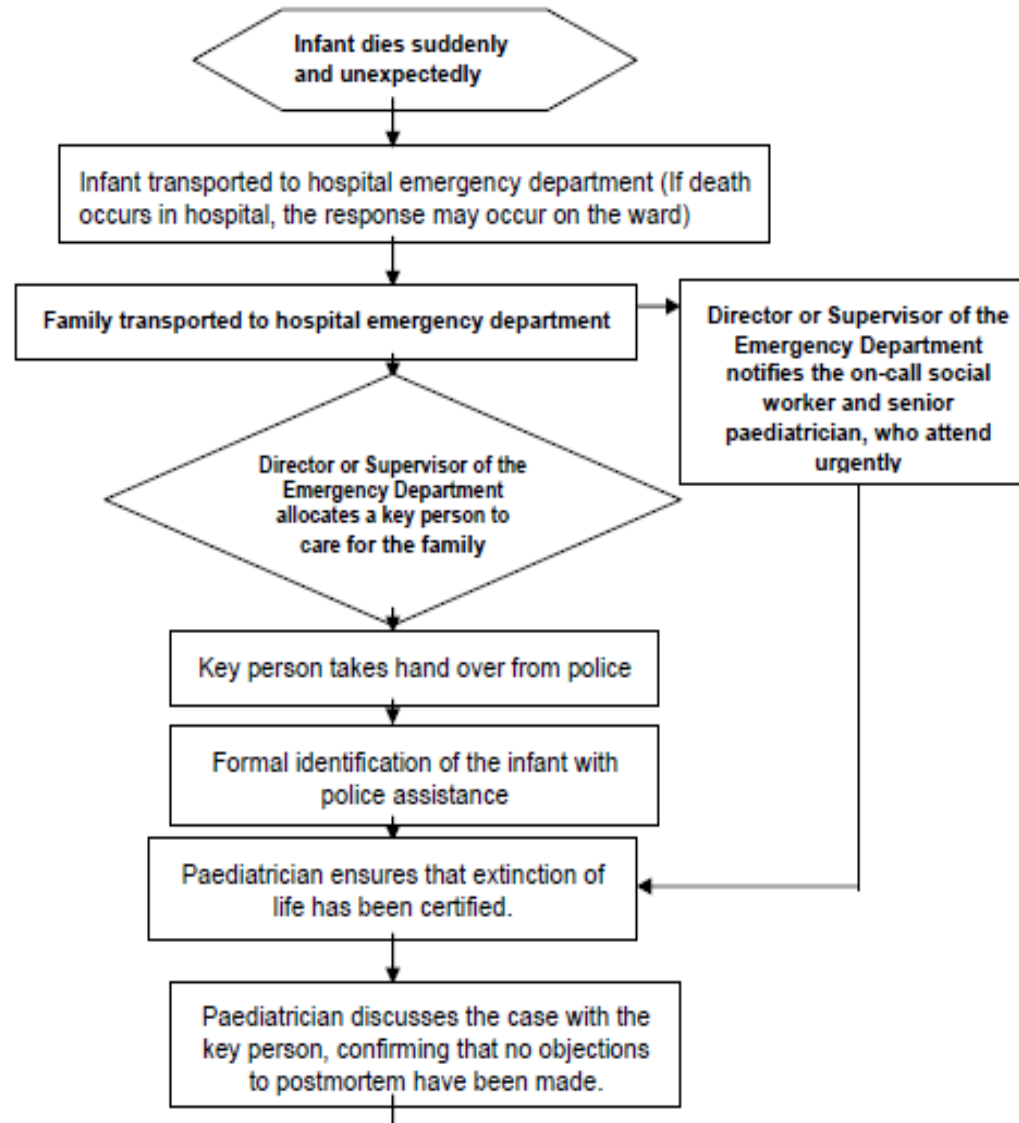
Information on co-sleeping

Environment in which the infant was found

Flowchart of the Emergency Department Response to SUDI



Flowchart of the Emergency Department Response to SUDI



Key Questions for ED professionals

1. What system(s) can be put in place to ensure that at every ED, there is awareness that this policy exists?
2. How can the policy, and the language used, be tailored to be as clear to ED staff as possible?
3. What are the obstacles in implementing the pathway? Are there solutions that can address them?

Contact details

Professor Elisabeth Murphy

Senior Clinical Adviser, Child and Family Health

P 02 9391 9475

E lmurp@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

April Deering

Manager, Priority Populations, Maternal Child and Family Health

P 02 9424 5764

E adeer@doh.health.nsw.gov.au