



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Cwm Taf Morgannwg
University Health Board



Freedom of Information Request: Our Reference CTMUHB_425_25

You asked:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information for each Emergency Department in your organisation.

- 1. Does your Emergency Department receive cases of unexpected child death? If "yes", please proceed to question 2. If "No", please respond to question 1 only.**

All CTMUHB Emergency Departments receive cases of unexpected child death. As per the [Procedural Response to Unexplained Death in Childhood](#) (PRUDIC) policy, any case of sudden child death that occurs, the child is taken to the nearest Emergency Department for the policy to be enforced. PRUDiC applies to all deaths in children from birth until their 18th birthday whether from natural, unnatural, known or unknown causes, at home, in hospital or in the community. This includes road traffic collisions, apparent suicides and murders.

If a child dies in Wales, the PRUDiC will be implemented even if the child is normally resident in a country other than Wales.

- 2. Did your Emergency Department have standard procedures or guidance for the management of unexpected child death in place on 1st Sept 2025? If "yes" please proceed to questions 3&4, answering using the guidance available on 1st Sept 2025. If "no" please respond to questions 1 & 2 only.**

Yes, all Emergency Departments in the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board footprint were following the PRUDIC pathway at this time.

- 3. Does your standard procedures or guidance document ask whether a parent is breastfeeding the child that has died?**

At the time of a sudden death and immediately afterwards none of the official paperwork would ask for breastfeeding information. The paperwork would primarily concentrate around bereavement support required.

- 4. Does your standard procedures document or guidance include management of the bereaved breastfeeding parent to reduce risk of engorgement, mastitis, and additional emotional distress?**

If the child death was sudden at home and the child was of breastfeeding age and the parent was having any issues with swelling, discomfort or concerns over mastitis this would be addressed by the midwifery team that they would still be under on follow up.

If the sudden death was a stillbirth, this baby would usually be delivered on one of our maternity suites. The bereavement midwife would have a conversation with the parent around donating breastmilk to the milk bank and encourage and advise the parent on how to do this as part of their procedures. This can provide a lot of comfort to parents and help relieve emotionally distress. Any follow up checks on the parent would then also discuss their maternal health including the condition of the breasts.

Anyone who experiences the death of a child would be offered bereavement support appropriate to their circumstances. This is along with a memory box and the offer of face to face support groups run by our bereavement midwives