

# SUD

Information for families

Great Ormond Street Hospital  
for Children NHS Trust

## Sudden, unexpected or unexplained death of a child

We at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust (GOSH) recognise that the death of any child is a tragedy. We will continue to offer our care and support to you while working with the coroner and police to ensure that a proper investigation takes place. The following information explains a little about the process that will happen and gives details of sources of support both within GOSH and elsewhere.

- The consultant in charge of your child's care will contact the police and the Coroner.
- The police will assess the situation and conduct a thorough investigation.
- Your child will be cared for with respect and dignity at all times.
- The police will follow 'best practice' guidelines and keep you and us informed of the progress. They will let us know when we can transfer your child to the mortuary and will advise us on what processes we may be required to follow.
- All sudden, unexplained death of children (from live birth to 18 years old) are reported to the Child Death Overview panel.
- The Rapid Response team from the Local Safeguarding Board Child Death Overview Panel will also be notified and may be involved in gathering and sharing information. Further information on this is in the *When a Child Dies* family booklet.
- Our staff team are here to help you. You may also wish to have family or friends supporting you while arrangements are being made.

**Please ask us about anything you do not understand. We will all be working together to try to keep you informed.**

## **Other sources of support**

### **Child Death Helpline**

Tel: 0800 282 986

Monday to Sunday 7pm to 10pm

Monday, Thursday and Friday 10am to 1pm

and Tuesday and Wednesday 10am to 4pm

Interpreting service available

Email: [contact@childdeathhelpline.org](mailto:contact@childdeathhelpline.org)

[www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk](http://www.childdeathhelpline.org.uk)

### **FSID – The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths**

Tel: 0808 002 6868

Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm

and every evening from 6pm to 11pm

Email: [fsid@sids.org.uk](mailto:fsid@sids.org.uk)

### **SANDS – The Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Society**

Tel: 020 7436 5881

Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5.30pm

Email: [helpline@uk-sands.org](mailto:helpline@uk-sands.org)

# Notes

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[www.goshfamilies.nhs.uk](http://www.goshfamilies.nhs.uk)   [www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk](http://www.childrenfirst.nhs.uk)