



PAN CHESHIRE CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL—NEWSLETTER

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Within this newsletter we will raise awareness amongst frontline professionals, parents/carers and families about some of the risks to children that we have identified through our CDOP work. Can you cascade this information as widely as possible to colleagues, friends and contacts.

SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN INFANCY

The Sudden and Unexpected loss of a baby is one of the most intensely painful experiences, especially when the baby is fit and well. Every year the CDOP panel considers cases of babies who have died from co-sleeping with parents in an un-safe situation.

Professionals provide information and advice to parents on infant safe sleep, including co-sleep as parents may intentionally or unintentionally co sleep with their infant. Leaflets are given to parents with clear guidelines on safe sleep, tragically on occasion parents don't follow the recommendations.

Top Tips to Infant Safe Sleep Day & Night

1. The safest place for a baby to sleep is in their own crib or cot on a well fitting, firm, waterproof mattress, placed on their back, feet to foot of the crib or cot. Keep baby in a smoke free environment, before and after birth
2. Room temperature should be between 16-20oC. Light weight bedding should be used and tucked beneath shoulders. Keep baby's head and face uncovered
3. Breastfeed your baby if you can — support is available if you need it

DO NOT consider co sleeping with a baby if you smoke, drink (alcohol) or take drugs (that make you drowsy prescribed or otherwise) or if your baby was born pre term or small for dates. Never co-sleep on a sofa or chair. If you are feeling tired **act fast** and move your baby to a crib, Moses basket or cot to sleep.



Always follow the advise provided by professionals and have a plan for safe sleep home and away

WORKING TOGETHER 2018—RESPONSIBILITY OF PROFESSIONALS

Following the reported death of a child, it is important for professionals who are requested to provide information to ensure all details are completed in full in the Child Death Reporting forms (CDRF), Analysis Forms, UKPMRT forms etc. to facilitate a thorough and robust review of all child deaths to identify learning. Bereavement support provided to parents must also be recorded on the CDRF form

In particular, professionals must always ask bereaved parents/carers if they have any issues or concerns they wish to raise, regarding the management of the child before or after death by any agency.

The same must be included in the Reporting forms and discussed at the child death review meetings, both within the hospital child death review meetings and at Pan Cheshire CDOP meetings.

The outcome of these discussions must be recorded in the Analysis Forms and also fed back to parents/carers.”

Neonatal Herpes

How does a new born baby catch herpes?

During pregnancy and labour if the mother had **genital herpes** for the first time within the last 6 weeks of her pregnancy.

After birth

The herpes simplex virus can be passed to a baby through a **cold sore** if a person has a cold sore and kisses the baby or if the mother has a herpes blister and she is either breast feeding or giving her baby expressed breast milk.

How can neonatal herpes be prevented?

If you're pregnant and have a history of genital herpes, tell your Dr or midwife.

- Do not kiss any babies
- Wash your hands before contact with baby and before breastfeeding
- Cover up any cold sores to avoid accidentally touching your mouth and then breast – this is enough to transfer the virus

Cold sores and other blisters caused by the herpes virus are at their most contagious when they burst. They remain contagious until completely healed.

What are the warning signs in babies?

New-born babies can become seriously ill after catching the herpes virus.

Call a GP or your health visitor straight away if your baby:

- is lethargic or irritable
- is not feeding
- has a high temperature (fever)
- has a rash or sores on the skin, eyes and inside the mouth.

Many babies will not have any specific herpes symptoms, such as a rash, but they can become unwell very quickly, so you need to **act fast Call 999 immediately.**