

13 October 2025

Emergency Department Unexpected Child Deaths and Management of Breast Feeding Parent

- 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.**

Yes

- 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.**

We receive unexpected deaths and have a sudden unexpected death in infancy protocol. This is a regional protocol for Northern Ireland.

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

Yes we ask standard questions about feeding. We specifically ask about breast feeding

- 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?**

We refer the family to their local General Practitioner. This would include support if the child was breast feeding.

We don't specifically have a policy about reducing engorgement / mastitis and treat each tragedy on a case by case basis.