



Safe Infant Sleeping Policy

1. Purpose

Safe infant sleeping practices and messages are used across the Western Australian health system to reduce the risk and incidence of Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). The Safe Infant Sleeping Policy promotes best safe infant sleeping practices by mandating education for staff about safe infant sleeping practices and promoting the use of key messages regarding safe infant sleeping in Health Service Providers and Contracted Health Entities.

This Policy is a mandatory requirement under the *Clinical Services Planning and Programs Policy Framework* pursuant to section 26(2)(c) of the *Health Services Act 2016*.

This Policy supersedes Operational Directive 0474/13 *WA Health Safe Infant Sleeping Policy and Framework 2013*.

2. Applicability

This Policy is applicable to Health Service Providers that provide maternity services and child health services as well as Contracted Health Entities that provide publicly funded maternity and child health services to the extent that this Policy forms part of their contract.

3. Policy requirements

Applicable Health Service Providers and Contracted Health Entities must ensure all health professionals employed or engaged in providing maternity and/or paediatric and child health services:

- are trained in best safe infant sleeping practices prior to providing maternity, paediatric or child health services
- provide evidence based best practice safe infant sleeping education, recommendations and discharge advice to parents and/or carers on safe infant sleeping risk reduction strategies during the antenatal and postnatal period, including during home visits; and up to the infant age of one year
- document the provision of safe infant sleeping education, recommendations and discharge advice in the patient's health record and provide best practice education on safe infant sleeping practices to volunteers who are engaged in providing maternity, paediatric and child health services, prior to provision of these services.

A recommended Safe Infant Sleeping Standard, Safe Infant Sleeping Brochure, Safe Infant Sleeping e-learning package and Safe Infant Sleeping Policy Compliance Tool are provided as supporting information to this Policy.

4. Compliance monitoring

Health Service Providers are required to monitor their compliance with this mandatory policy.

As deemed necessary, the System Manager may request that Health Service Providers provide the System Manager with clinical data and compliance evidence in relation to the requirements of this Policy. In these cases, the System Manager will work with the Health Service Provider to agree on the information to be provided and timeframes this is required within.

5. Related documents

The following documents are mandatory pursuant to this Policy:

- N/A

6. Supporting information

The following information is not mandatory but informs and/or supports the implementation of this Policy:

- [Safe Infant Sleeping Standard](#)
- [Safe Infant Sleeping Brochure](#)
- [Safe Infant Sleeping e-Learning Package](#)
- [Safe Infant Sleeping Policy Compliance Tool](#) (Compliance Tool)

7. Definitions

The following definition(s) are relevant to this Policy. For further information regarding key terms please refer to the *Safe Infant Sleeping Standard*.

Term	Definition
Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI)	SUDI is a broad term used to describe the sudden and unexpected death of a baby up to the age of 12 months, for which the cause is not immediately obvious. The only means to find out the reason why a baby has died suddenly and unexpectedly is to perform an autopsy, review the clinical history and to investigate the circumstances of death, including the death scene, thoroughly. Following this thorough investigation, some deaths are explained, such as accidental deaths, asphyxiation by bedclothes, pillows and overlaying whilst co sleeping, infection, metabolic disorders, genetic disorders or non-accidental injury such as homicide, while others are unexplained.

8. Policy contact

Enquiries relating to this Policy may be directed to:

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9. Document control

Version	Published date	Effective from	Review date	Effective to	Amendment (s)
MP 0106/19	18 April 2019	18 April 2019	18 April 2022	29 May 2019	Original version
MP 0106/19 v1.1	29 May 2019	29 May 2019	18 April 2022	Current	Minor amendment: correction of hyperlinks

10. Approval

Approval by	Dr David Russell-Weisz, Director General, Department of Health
Approval date	23 March 2019

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