



SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME (SIDS)



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or "crib death," is the sudden and unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant, usually under one year of age, which remains unexplained after a complete medical history, death scene investigation and postmortem examination.

SIDS almost always occurs when the infant is asleep or thought to be asleep.

Although there may be obvious signs of death, the 1st Responder may attempt resuscitation of the infant for psychological reasons (e.g. parent's peace of mind). There may also be some infants in which the 1st Responder determines that a resuscitation attempt is not warranted. In either event, **the 1st Responder should be prepared for a myriad of grief reactions from the parents and/or caregiver.**

The scene should be treated as any other death scene, with attention to preservation of potential evidence.

Assessment

- A. ABC's with C-Spine protection. ([General Supportive Care Protocol](#).)
- B. Start CPR unless obvious rigor mortis, severe lividity, early tissue breakdown, or DNR. (See [Basic Life Support Protocol](#)) or ([DNR Protocol](#)).

Notify EMS immediately that patient is in cardiac arrest.

- C. Note the condition of the child and the surroundings in which the child was found.
- D. Obtain a brief medical history from the parents or guardians.
- E. Use extreme tact and professionalism.

TREATMENT


- A. If there is any doubt in your mind whether or not to resuscitate, **begin resuscitation.**



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- B. Continue CPR with minimal interruptions. Use Bag-Valve-Mask device with 100% oxygen, in preparation for the arrival of advanced life support.
- C. Check pulses with and without CPR.
- D. Rotate positions so one person is not overworked.
- F. Provide history and further information to EMS Crew on their arrival.
- G. Observe the scene's integrity for possible crime-scene investigation. Do not move or touch anything unless it is absolutely necessary to do so. If you must do so, make a mental note to tell the police.

REPORT


- A. Report as indicated in [General Supportive Care Protocol](#).



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