

WELSH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT

Child Death Review Pilot in Wales

Background: In England the Regulations introduced under The Children Act 2004 require Local safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to set up a process for reviewing all deaths of children. This process has been on-going for about two years. The purpose is to examine whether there are common factors associated with particular causes of child death which, once identified, can then be addressed with a view of prevention. The Welsh Assembly Government wanted to consider taking an All Wales approach to conducting reviews of all child deaths, and asked the National Public Health Service (NPHS) to set up a pilot project on an all Wales basis but linking with LSCBs, other local agencies and clinicians. A key task is to ascertain cases: which we hope to do from Registrars of Birth, Marriages and Deaths and through the clinicians via the WPSU.

Objectives: To ascertain child deaths in Wales to enable information to be collected so that similar deaths can be prevented.

Criteria for inclusion, including the case definition: All deaths in Wales to children and young persons before their 18th birthday.

Information required on individual cases: We will ask clinicians to complete Form A, which is derived from the English form. This ascertains basic data on the child and is not subject to the data protection act as the child is dead.

Will patient confidentiality be maintained? Subject to information governance procedures of the NPHS for Wales.

Duration of study: One year

Will additional contact with the patient be required? Parents will be informed locally if their child is chosen either for local or all Wales review.

Purposes for which the data collected will be used/ Questions the study aims to answer: Future prevention of child deaths in Wales. The nature of child deaths in Wales.

References: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/>

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