

PEDIATRIC SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the unexpected, sudden death of a seemingly normal, healthy infant that occurs during sleep with no physical evidence of disease or injury.

- A. Begin resuscitation immediately unless rigor mortis, severe lividity, or tissue breakdown is evident. If any doubt, resuscitate. Refer to Pediatric Emergencies **Cardiac Arrest Protocol 5406**.
- B. Note the position and condition of the victim and the surroundings.
- C. Use extreme tact and professionalism. Do not let emotions or prejudices interfere with carrying out appropriate patient care or family support.
 1. Do not make judgments concerning the situation.
 2. Do not add to the parent's sense of guilt or helplessness.
 3. Remember, people react differently to stressful situations.
- D. If resuscitation is begun:
 1. Transport immediately.
 2. Continue treatment en route per appropriate protocol.
 3. Contact **Medical Command** for further orders.
- E. If resuscitation has **not begun**:
 1. **Contact Medical Command** immediately for confirmation of decision not to begin efforts **by direct MCP order** and follow **Death in the Field Protocol 9101**.

