

Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

SUBJECT: SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

The goals of prehospital care in the case of sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), are to provide resuscitative treatment to the infant, if indicated, as well as supportive care to the family, until other resources can be mobilized.

- A. If no signs of obvious or prolonged death:
 - 1. Verify cardiopulmonary arrest.
 - 2. Refer to pediatric cardiopulmonary arrest protocol.

- B. If obvious signs of death: disfiguration of face with “squashed nose”; frothy, blood-tinged mucous around infant’s mouth or nose; rigor mortis; or liver mortis (pooling of blood in dependent body areas; may appear as blotching):
 - 1. Do not attempt resuscitation unless family refuses to acknowledge infant’s death.
 - 2. Request appropriate law enforcement agency to the scene.
 - 3. Acknowledge the parent’s and family’s feelings of grief, and provide calm, authoritative support and guidance.
 - 4. Consider activation of Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) Team after the incident.