

Pediatricians and Child Death Review

The Operating Principles of Child Death Review

- The death of a child is a community responsibility.
- A child's death is a sentinel event that should urge communities to identify other children at risk for illness or injury.
- A death review requires multidisciplinary participation from the community.
- A review of case information should be comprehensive and broad.
- A review should lead to an understanding of risk factors.
- A review should focus on prevention and should lead to effective recommendations and actions to prevent deaths and to keep children healthy, safe and protected.

The National Center for the
**REVIEW &
PREVENTION
OF CHILD DEATHS**



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Some states' statutes require representation of pediatricians on state and/or local teams. Regardless of whether or not membership is required, pediatricians play a vital role on child death review teams. Pediatricians assist teams with effective review and prevention efforts in many ways.

Help build bridges by

- Learning about the policies and practices of other team member agencies through team participation.
- Acting as a liaison between the team and the jurisdiction's medical community.
- Explaining to the team how to improve relationships with the community's medical providers.

Support the team by

- Interpreting medical records from hospitals and other medical care providers.
- Providing the medical information needed for a successful prevention campaign.

Provide the team with information regarding

- Services provided to the child or family if seen by the health professional.
- General health issues, including child development, injuries and deaths, medical terminology, concepts and practices.

Provide the team with expertise by

- Offering expert opinion on medical evidence in child death.
- Giving a medical explanation and interpretation of events from the point of view of examining thousands of living children.
- Sharing general knowledge of injuries, SIDS, child abuse/neglect and childhood disease.

