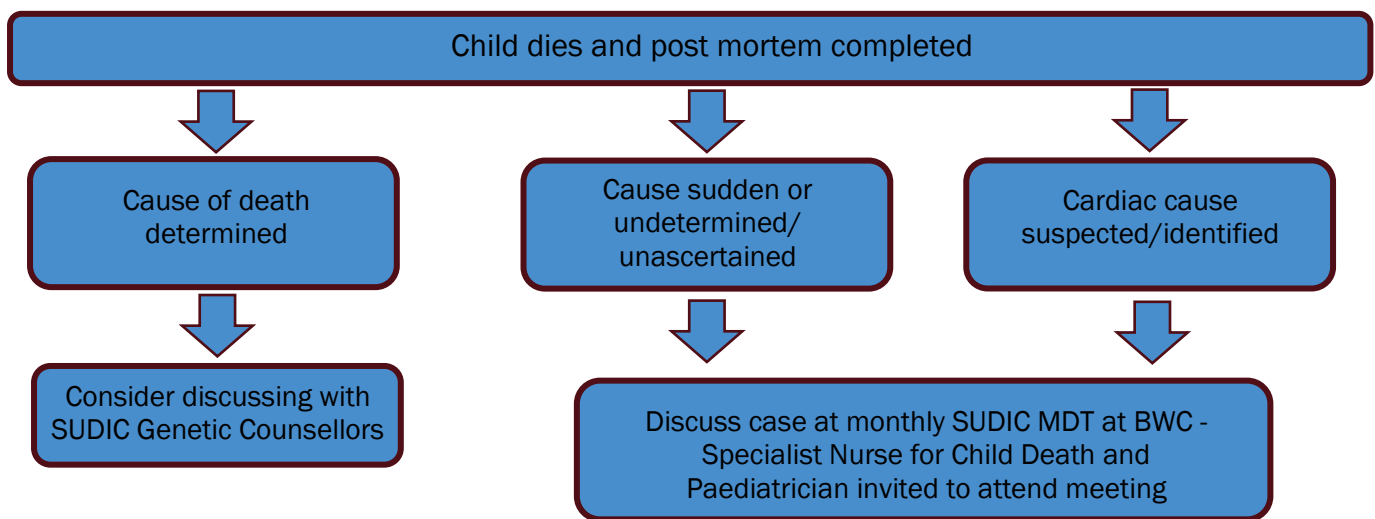


Child Death Service - Whole Genome Sequencing Pathway

Whole genome sequencing (WGS) should be offered to the family of any infant or child (under 18) whose death remains sudden or undetermined/unascertained after standard investigation protocols, including a post-mortem. This specialised clinical pathway uses the child's DNA—often paired with blood samples from both biological parents—to identify rare, underlying genetic conditions that may have caused the death. This includes deaths classified as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy or Childhood (SUDI/C) or sudden or undetermined/unascertained deaths.



Whole Genome Sequencing agreed to be offered to the family, to include parents and deceased child

To refer a family for rare disease genetics assessment, please complete the electronic referral using the link below: [Information for Genetics Professionals | Birmingham Women's and Children's](#)

Referrals should be submitted by the online referral form above – please ensure you select the Rare Disease referral form.

Please email bwc.cgucardiac@nhs.net FAO: SUDIC Genetics Counsellors, with deceased child details and parents' details to ensure referrals are triaged as urgent.

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- If a child (under 18 years) experiences a sudden or unascertained/undetermined death (after standard investigations) whole genome sequencing can be requested
- This should be requested by a paediatrician or can be arranged by the SUDIC Genetic Counsellors (see referral method above)
- The test includes genes for cardiac, metabolic and neurological causes of death

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- Looks at genes associated with cardiac death only
- Criteria for referral concerns a suspicion for a cardiac cause of death & where there is significant family history of cardiac disease
- Can be considered prior to postmortem results if clinical suspicions as above
- For further advice contact should be made with the genetics service (contact details above)