Review recommendation

- The section of the guideline on reducing the risk of SIDS (section 7.8.2) should be updated at this time.
Process for reviewing the guidance

Following referral from the Department of Health, a focused literature search was conducted to be able to answer the following clinical question:

- What modifiable factors are associated with the risk of sudden death in babies in the first year of life?

Literature searches were limited to the date of the last review in 2011 to date.

Factors influencing the decision

Literature search

1. Through an assessment of abstracts from the focused search 16 studies relating to the clinical question were identified.

2. The findings of the identified studies were mainly in line with the current recommendations. However, there was also new evidence on bed-sharing/co-sleeping (new analysis of existing evidence), breastfeeding and pacifier-use, which may affect current recommendation(s).

Guideline Development Group perspective

Review proposal put to the Guideline Development Group:

The section of the guideline on reducing the risk of SIDS (section 7.8.2) should be updated at this time.

3. A questionnaire and a briefing paper presenting the new literature was distributed to the original Guideline Development Group to consult them on the need for an update of section 7.8.2 of the guideline: Reducing the risk of SIDS.

4. The briefing paper concluded that the section of the guideline on reducing the risk of SIDS may need updating at this stage as new literature was identified on:

- Bed sharing/co-sleeping
- Breastfeeding
- Pacifier use
6. The two GDG members who disagreed with the review proposal commented that in their view, the current recommendations provide balanced guidance regarding bed-sharing and that the current evidence in the “SIDS field” does not support the idea of a blanket ban on bed-sharing.

7. They suggested that if the recommendations are to be changed it should be to underline the dangers of sofa-sharing or bed-sharing when the parents have consumed alcohol or drugs as the quantified risk in these circumstances are a magnitude higher than any other SIDS risk factor regardless of infant age. And that the risk of bed-sharing in the absence of these hazardous conditions amongst non-smoking parents is negligible.

**Anti-discrimination and equalities considerations**

8. No evidence was identified to indicate that the guideline scope does not comply with anti-discrimination and equalities legislation. The original scope is inclusive of women and their babies in the postnatal period, defined as 6–8 weeks after birth.

**Relationship to quality standards**

9. This guideline is related to a quality standard on postnatal care that is in development.

**Conclusion**

10. Through the process, new evidence was identified on:

- Bed sharing/co-sleeping
- Breastfeeding
- Pacifier use

11. The section of the guideline on reducing the risk of SIDS (section 7.8.2) should be updated at this time.