



Joint Agency Response and Sudden Cardiac Death Pathways

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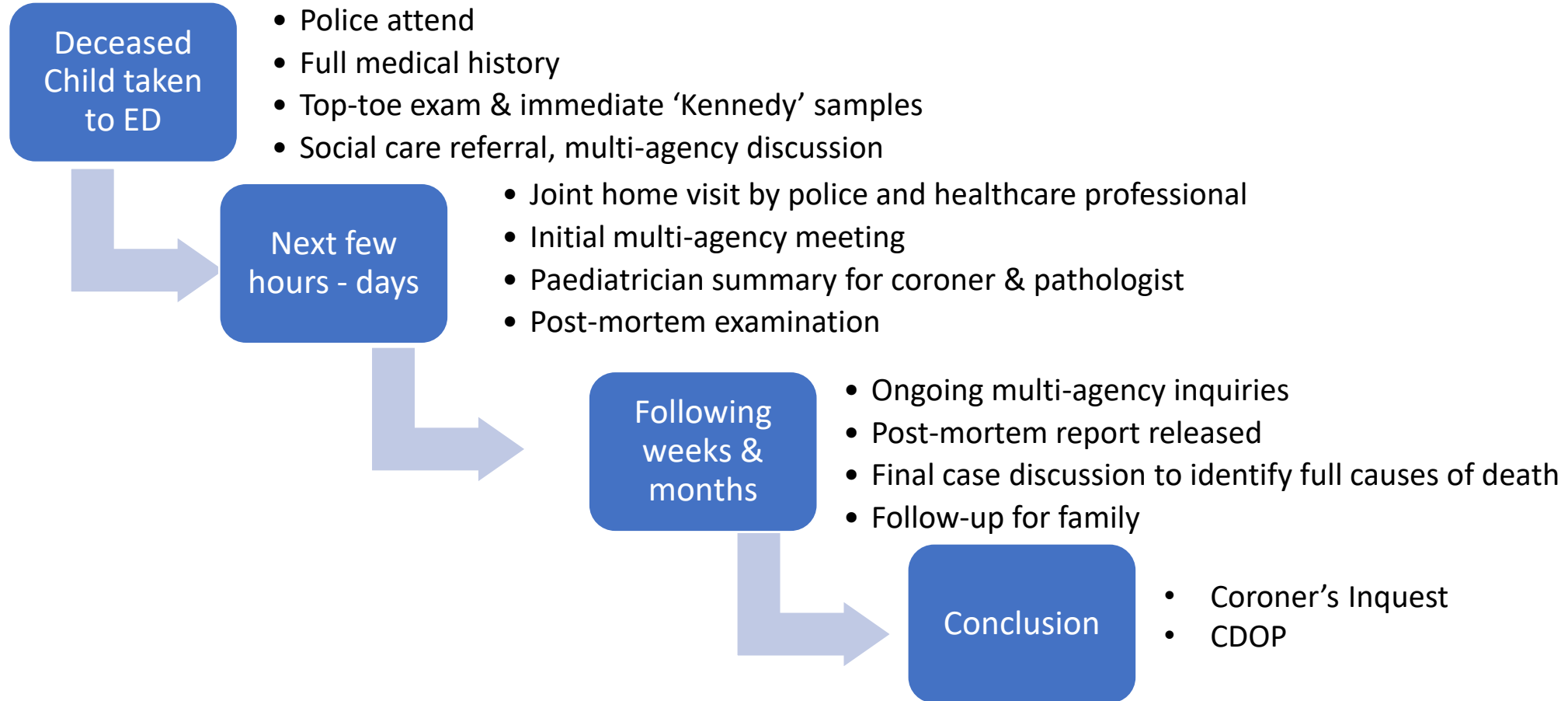
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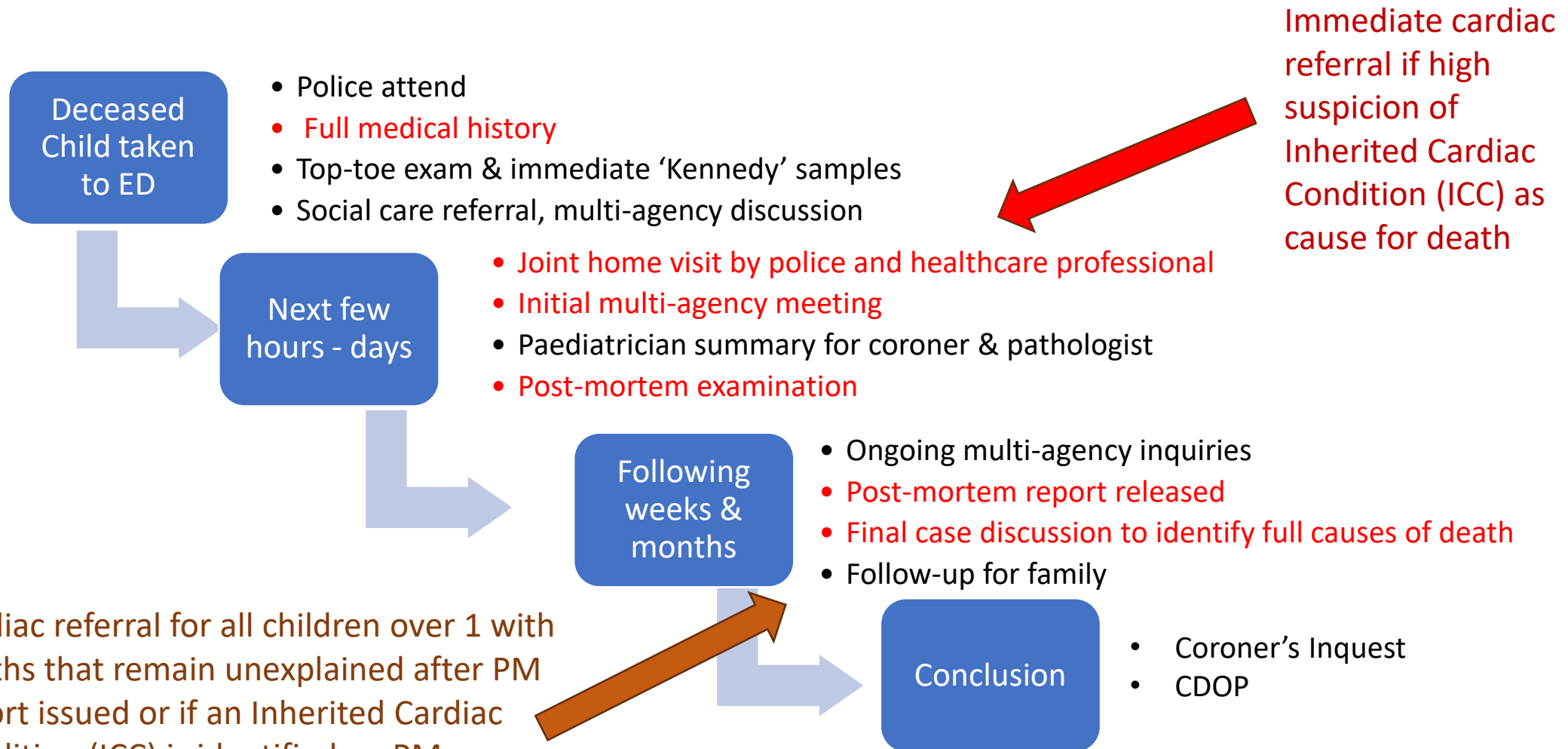
Joint Agency Response (JAR)

- Potential sudden cardiac deaths will present as SUDIC (sudden unexpected death in childhood)
- Investigations must follow local JAR/SUDIC process
- **Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD) Pathway is in addition to JAR/SUDIC investigations**
- All families should be allocated a keyworker as main contact for JAR: information sharing, supporting family, arranging follow-up
 - specialist JAR nurse, bereavement nurse, chaplain, charity keyworker

JAR process



JAR process - & SCD pathway



Which children need immediate cardiac referral?

- Witnessed cardiac arrest while awake
 - Previous history of cardiac arrhythmia
 - Previous history of unusual fainting or syncopal episodes
 - Family history of cardiac arrhythmia or inherited cardiac condition
 - Family history of sudden cardiac death
 - Potential cardiac genetic cause identified at post-mortem
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- Not all children referred will receive a cardiac diagnosis – alternative cause may be identified at PM (e.g. infection, neurological), or death remains unexplained SUDC

Referral for unexplained deaths

- Children over one year only
- Deaths that remain unexplained after full JAR including post-mortem
 - Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC)
 - Unascertained deaths
 - Sudden arrhythmic death syndrome (SADS)
- JAR team may need to initiate referral
- Offer families R441 following your local guidance
- Tissue retention is **REALLY** important
 - Make sure families understand if they opt for disposal
 - SCD pathway should help improve tissue retention
- Importance of skin biopsy in ED


How to refer to SCD pathway

- ICC Coordinator – contact via BHF
- Local CDOP to contact specialist child death nurses

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-death-overview-panels-contacts/child-death-overview-panel-contacts#birmingham>



Effective joint working to support families

- Keyworker – main support and communication with bereaved family
 - Specialist CDR nurses
 - ICC Coordinator
 - Pathologist – may be out of region
 - Coroner
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- ICC Coordinator, keyworkers and specialist nurses need to work together to ensure all are giving same information to bereaved families
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Questions