



Documenting Supervision in the **Pediatric NFR-CRS**

Learning Together, Protecting Tomorrows



Key Funding Partner

Federal Acknowledgement

The National Center is funded in part by Cooperative Agreement Number UG7MC28482 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as part of an award totaling \$5,149,996 annually with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. These contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

Housekeeping

Before We Get Started



Recorded Webinar

This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on the National Center's website.



Questions and Answers

Participants are muted. Use the question-and-answer box to ask questions.



Technology Problems

Email the National Center at info@ncfrp.org if you experience tech problems.



Evaluation

Complete a brief evaluation at the conclusion of the session. Scan the QR code to access.

Speakers

The Speakers Have No Financial Relationship Or Interests To Disclose.



Patti Schnitzer, PhD
Data Systems Consultant
National Center for Fatality Review
and Prevention



Stacy Meade, MPH
Senior Project Coordinator
National Center for Fatality Review
and Prevention

Agenda

For This Webinar

1

Context

Discuss importance and challenges of assessing supervision.

2

Practice

Practice assessing supervision with mock review scenarios.

3

Challenges

Determining supervision is not straightforward.

Prioritizing Personal Wellbeing

During Fatality Review Convenings



The content of today's session may include information about individual or aggregate fetal, infant, or child deaths. There may be icon graphics and/or photographs of living infants and children.

This may evoke strong feelings or other distress. Please prioritize your own wellbeing during this session, even if you need to step away. Contact the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 via phone or text for additional support.



Context

Why Was This Guidance Document Developed?

Supervision and Child Injury

Challenges Assessing Need for Supervision



Leading Cause

Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death among children ages 1-17 years.



Young Children

Among children ages 1-4 years, injury rates are higher when unsupervised.



Supervision Level

Among children ages 1-4, the lower level of supervision, the greater risk of more severe injury.



Other Factors

A child's age, behavioral attributes, and environment all influence injury risk.



Supervision

The action or process of watching and directing what someone does.



Supervisor

The person who has responsibility for care and control of child at time of incident.

What is Supervision?

Questions to Consider



Proximity

How close was the supervisor to the child?



Attention

How was the supervisor acting or engaging with the child?



Continuity

Could the supervisor see and/or hear the child constantly?

Question D1

Response Options

Decision Criteria

Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

Yes

- Supervisor in close enough proximity to see or hear the child, even if attending to other tasks.
- Supervisor was asleep at time of incident, and the child was also asleep.

No, not needed

- Usually selected for older children.

No, but needed

- Supervisor of a child under age 6 could not see or hear the child.
- Supervisor of a child under age 6 was not in proximity to child.

Unable to determine

- Information about supervision at time of incident is unknown or not available.

Supervision

Key Pediatric NFR-CRS Questions



D1

Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?



D15

At the time of the incident, was the supervisor asleep?



D16

At the time of the incident, was the supervisor impaired?



Practice

Assess Supervision in Mock Scenarios

Scenario 1

Mock Details

It's 2am. A 3-month-old infant is asleep in a crib in the nursery. Parents are asleep in their own bedroom. Mom awakes, goes to check on the baby, and finds its face pressed into the crib bumper pad. Crib rails are surrounded by bumper pads. The crib also contains blankets and several stuffed animals. No drugs or alcohol were used in the house.

Scenario 1

Poll Questions

D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes**
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances
- No, but needed
- Unable to determine

D15. At the time of the incident, was the supervisor asleep?

- Yes**
- No
- Unknown

D15. If yes, select the most appropriate description of the supervisor's sleeping period.

- Nighttime sleep**
- Day time nap
- Day time sleep (for example, supervisor is night shift worker)
- Other

D16. At time of incident was the supervisor impaired?

- Yes
- No**
- Unknown

Review Guidance

Scenario 1

If the child was asleep, the supervisor was asleep, and the incident occurred during the night (when you expect families to be sleeping), **then the child is supervised.**

Remember, we are only answering the question of supervision, not safe sleep.





Supervision and Sleep

How Does This Affect Supervision?

Scenario 2

Mock Details

Dad works nights and watches his 2 children, ages 2 years and 6 months, during the day while mom works. Dad puts kids down for a nap at 2pm in their sleep spaces. Dad falls asleep on the couch. The 2-year-old does not nap, gets up, leaves the house, and is struck by a car in the street.

Scenario 2

Poll Questions

D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances
- No, but needed**
- Unable to determine

D15. At the time of the incident, was the supervisor asleep?

- Yes**
- No
- Unknown

D15. If yes, select the most appropriate description of the supervisor's sleeping period.

- Nighttime sleep
- Day time nap
- Day time sleep** (for example, supervisor is night shift worker)
- Other

D16. At time of incident was the supervisor impaired?

- Yes
- No**
- Unknown

Review Guidance

Scenario 2

If the supervisor is asleep during the day/evening when they should be supervising the child, no alternative supervisor is assigned, and the child is awake, **then the child is not supervised.**

Remember, we are only answering the supervision question for the child who died.





Supervision and Impairment

What are the Guidelines?

Scenario 3

Mock Details

Three-year-old boy is playing with 4 other children during a picnic/family reunion at a lakeside park. Parents were approximately 20 feet away, drinking and talking with other adult family members. The boy wanders down to the lake unnoticed, falls off a dock and drowns. Parents were **not** noticeably intoxicated when police arrived. No blood alcohol test was conducted.

Scenario 3

Poll Questions

D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes**
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances
- No, but needed
- Unable to determine

D15. At the time of the incident, was the supervisor asleep?

- Yes
- No**
- Unknown

D16. At time of incident was the supervisor impaired?

- Yes**
- No
- Unknown

D16. If yes, check all that apply.

- Drug impaired
- Alcohol impaired
- Distracted**
- Absent
- Impaired by illness
- Impaired by disability
- Other

Review Guidance

Scenario 3

When not during sleep, think about if the supervisor could see or hear the child.

- 20 feet is relatively close and typically would be within sight or hearing range.
- No barriers to sight or hearing were noted in the investigation.

The child was supervised. Remember, supervision and distraction are different.





Supervision and Older Children

What are the Guidelines?

Scenario 4

Mock Details

17-year-old fully licensed driver is driving their 16-year-old cousin home late at night. Both teens had been out drinking with friends. The 17-year-old misses a curve and runs off the road. The vehicle rolls several times, and the 16-year-old is ejected from the vehicle and killed. The 17-year-old's blood alcohol level was 2 times the legal limit.

Scenario 4

Poll Questions



D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances**
- No, but needed
- Unable to determine



When Supervision is “No, not needed”

No additional questions in Section D will be available for data entry.

Review Guidance

Scenario 4

Older children exhibit increasing independence and do not require supervision in most situations.

Exceptions include developmental delays, chronic illness, suicidal ideation, and other conditions that necessitate closer supervision. Since this was a fully licensed driver, supervision was not needed. Remember, avoid unreasonable expectations of caregivers.





Siblings as Supervisors

What are the Guidelines?

Scenario 5

Mock Details

Around 4pm, a 1-year-old is left in the care of their 7-year-old sibling while the caregiver leaves for “a short time” to run errands. The 7-year-old is playing games on a handheld device when the 1-year-old wanders outside, into the street and is struck by a car.

Scenario 5

Poll Questions

D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances
- No, but needed**
- Unable to determine

D15. At the time of the incident, was the supervisor asleep?

- Yes
- No**
- Unknown

D16. At time of incident was the supervisor impaired?

- Yes**
- No
- Unknown

D16. If yes, check all that apply.

- Drug impaired
- Alcohol impaired
- Distracted
- Absent**
- Impaired by illness
- Impaired by disability
- Other



Assigned?

When it appears siblings or other children are supervisors, assess if they were assigned supervisor or merely left home alone.



Appropriate?

To determine if a child supervisor was appropriate, consider number and ages of children present, duration of time, and time of day.



Social Norms

A 12-year-old child can typically supervise, according to social norms.



Additional Resources

Child Supervision Matrix

These minimum community standards for child supervision were developed by the U.S. Army in 2013.



Supervision if Manner = Suicide

What are the Guidelines?

Scenario 6

Mock Details

16-year-old who lives with their mother. Mother occasionally uses drugs and alcohol and has recently lost her job. Sends 16-year-old to live with their father. Father lives in another state with a 29-year-old relative and the 29-year-old's 2-year-old child. 29-year-old verbally abuses the 16-year-old while the father is at work. Sixteen-year-old dies by suicide in the home (strangulation by hanging).

Scenario 6

Poll Questions



D1. Did child have supervision at time of incident leading to death?

- Yes
- No, not needed given developmental age or circumstances**
- No, but needed
- Unable to determine



When Supervision is “No, not needed”

No additional questions in Section D will be available for data entry.

Review Guidance

Scenario 6

Supervision as a prevention strategy for suicide is not documented. Most suicide incidents occur at ages where constant, direct supervision is not expected.

However, exceptions include children with suicidal ideation, children under suicide watch, and children with a history of suicidality having current mental health challenges. Remember, avoid unreasonable expectations of caregivers.





Challenges

Guidance and Best Practices When Determining Supervision is
Not Straightforward

Supervision Recommendations

Challenging Circumstances

- Infants in bathtubs.
- Older children.
- Children in motor vehicles.
- Children left home alone.
- Siblings or other children as supervisors.
- Manner is natural, homicide or suicide.
- When place of incident is hospital.
- Physical or intellectual disabilities.





Best Practices

Supervision

- Avoid unreasonable expectations of caregivers.
- Focus on objective measures.
- Document decisions that depart from guidelines so they can be applied consistently.



Documenting Supervision in the Pediatric National Fatality Review-Case Reporting System

National Center Guidance Report

Published May 2025



Questions

Q&A For Speakers



Please complete an evaluation using the link in the chat, or by scanning the QR code above.

Thank You For Your Time!

www.ncfrp.org



2436 Woodlake Circle,
Okemos, MI 48864



1-800-656-2434



info@ncfrp.org