**Safe Sleep Star Clinic Letter**

**KIDS Network Safe Sleep Instructor Project**

Dear Colleague,

Each year in the United States, ~ 3,500 infants die due to sleep-related deaths. In 2020, there were 52 infant sleep-related deaths in Kansas; 98% of these were found to have one or more unsafe sleep practices (Kansas State Child Death and Review Board 2022 Annual Report). It is imperative as health care professionals that we are diligent in promoting consistent safe sleep messaging to our families and do our part to ensure all infants can celebrate their first birthday.

This summer, the American Academy of Pediatrics released an updated policy statement entitled *Sleep-Related Infant Deaths: Updated 2022 Recommendations for Reducing Infant Deaths in the Sleep Environment* (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-057990>) and technical report *Evidence Base for 2022 Updated Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment to Reduce the Risk of Sleep-Related Infant Deaths* (<https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2022-057991>). These reports stress the importance of safe sleep environments to prevent sleep-related infant deaths by reiterating previous safe sleep recommendations and by providing new guidance that physicians and health care professionals can share with families and caregivers.

As a pediatric hospitalist, I invite you and your clinic to collaborate with the [Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network by becoming a Certified Safe Sleep Star Clinic](https://www.kidsks.org/safe-sleep-star-toolkit.html). This free of charge certification program will include educational training for you and your staff on the updated 2022 AAP Safe Sleep Recommendations. We will also provide your team resources to better equip you in addressing parental concerns and barriers that may interfere with safe infant sleep.

The Safe Sleep Star can also be utilized as part of a Quality Improvement (QI) project to improve infant safe sleep messaging in your clinical practice. The QI project is approved for MOC-4 credit through the University of Kansas School of Medicine portfolio for the ABOM specialties of Pediatrics, Family Medicine, and Obstetrics and Gynecology and is facilitated by Stephanie Kuhlmann, DO, FAAP with KU Wichita Pediatrics.

If you have interest in your clinic becoming a Certified Safe Sleep Star Clinic, reach out to your local Certified Safe Sleep Instructor, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or Christy Schunn, Executive Director of the KIDS Network, at edirector@kidsks.org. If you have questions or interest in participating in the QI project for MOC-4 credit, please contact Stephanie Kuhlmann at stephanie.kuhlmann@wesleymc.com.

Only by working together to promote consistent safe sleep messaging will we be able to eradicate these preventable infant deaths.

Sincerely,

Stephanie N. Kuhlmann, DO

Pediatric Hospitalist and KIDS Network Board member