

# Pre-Hospital Sepsis Screening Tool

## Under 5


- ① Start this chart if the child **LOOKS UNWELL**, if there is **PARENTAL CONCERN**, **EWS  $\geq 5$**  or **ABNORMAL TEMPERATURE ( $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$  or  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )**


**Risk Factors for Sepsis include** (note: the absence of risk factors does not rule out sepsis)

Patients with risk factors are at higher risk of developing sepsis. Have a lower threshold for sepsis screening these patients

- Recent trauma/surgery/invasive procedures
- Impaired Immunity (e.g. diabetes, steroids, chemotherapy, neutropenic patient, asplenia)
- Indwelling lines/broken skin/indwelling devices
- Rural, remote or low socioeconomic status
- Re-presentation or delayed presentation to a health service
- Infants  $<3$  months old

- ② Is there an obvious non-infective cause for the patients presentation and observations? **NO** ↓ **YES** → **SEPSIS UNLIKELY**  
Treat other cause

- ③ **Any RED flags?** **YES** →  **RED FLAG SEPSIS**
- BSL  $\leq 3$  mmol/L (Note:  $<2.6$  mmol/L for neonates)
  - Doesn't wake when roused/won't stay awake
  - Child looks unwell to healthcare professional
  - Weak, high pitched or continuous cry
  - Tachypnoea (see chart below)
  - Tachycardia (see chart below)
  - Bradycardia (see chart below)
  - Hypotension (see chart below)
  - SpO<sub>2</sub>  $\leq 88\%$  on air or O<sub>2</sub> requirements  $\geq 10$  Litres/minute
  - Non-blanching rash
  - Lactate  $>4$  mmol/L (if available)
- NO** ↓
- Pre-notify ED
  - Follow RED EWS escalation advice
  - Communicate RED flag sepsis at handover

- ④ **Any AMBER flags?** **YES** →  **AMBER FLAG SEPSIS**
- Family and / or clinical concern is continuing or increasing
  - Not responding normally/ no smile/ reduced activity/ very sleepy
  - Unexplained pain, leg pain or cold extremities
  - Tachypnoea (see chart below)
  - Tachycardia (see chart below)
  - Hypotension (see chart below)
  - SpO<sub>2</sub>  $\leq 91\%$  on air or O<sub>2</sub> requirements  $\geq 5$  Litres/minute
  - Capillary refill time of  $\geq 3$  seconds, mottled or cold extremities
  - Lactate 2-4 mmol/L (if available)
  - Nasal flaring
  - Reduced urine output
- NO** ↓
- Follow AMBER EWS escalation advice
  - Communicate AMBER flag sepsis at handover

## SEPSIS UNLIKELY

AGE		Tachypnoea (breaths per minute)		Tachycardia (beats per minute)		Bradycardia (beats per minute)		Hypotension (systolic BP)	
		Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
		$\geq 75$	65-74	$\geq 180$	170-179	$\leq 90$	$\leq 100$	$\leq 50$	$\leq 60$
$<3$ mnths	$\geq 75$	65-74	$\geq 180$	170-179	$\leq 80$	$\leq 90$	$\leq 60$	$\leq 70$	
3-12 mnths	$\geq 55$	50-54	$\geq 170$	160-169	$\leq 70$	$\leq 80$	$\leq 60$	$\leq 70$	
1-5 Years									

If no red or amber flags sepsis is unlikely. Routine care – Consider other diagnosis