



Sepsis Alert!

	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pallor reported by parent/carer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pale/mottled/ashen/blue
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds normally to social cues • Content/smiles • Stays awake or awakens quickly • Strong normal cry/not crying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not responding normally to social cues • Wakes only with prolonged stimulation • Decreased activity • No smile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response to social cues • Appears ill to a healthcare professional • Does not wake or if roused does not stay awake • Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
Respiratory		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nasal flaring • Tachypnoea: RR > 50 breaths/minute, age 6–12 months RR > 40 breaths/minutes, age > 12 months • Oxygen saturation ≤ 95% in air • Crackles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grunting • Tachypnoea: RR > 60 breaths/minute • Moderate or severe chest indrawing
Hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal skin and eyes • Moist mucous membranes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry mucous membranes • Poor feeding in infants • CRT ≥ 3 seconds • Reduced urine output 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced skin turgor
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of the amber or red symptoms or signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever for ≥ 5 days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 0–3 months, temperature ≥ 38 °C • Age 3–6 months, temperature ≥ 39 °C
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling of a limb or joint • Non-weight bearing/not using an extremity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-blanching rash • Bulging fontanelle • Neck stiffness • Status epilepticus • Focal neurological signs • Focal seizures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new lump > 2 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bile-stained vomiting

CRT = capillary refill time; RR = respiratory rate.

Adapted From
'Feverish illness in children' NHS, UK, 2007.



If you suspect infection may be the cause of worrying clinical signs (Amber to Red) assess patient using Screening Patients for Sepsis tool.