

Your logo

Prehospital Sepsis Screening and Action Tool



THE UK
SEPSIS
TRUST

To be applied to all children aged 5-11 years with fever (or recent fever) symptoms
NB there is no systems substitute for clinical experience & acumen, but Red Flag Sepsis will help with early identification of children with systemic response to infection

Patient details:

1. Are obs. abnormal? Tick

- OR is child feverish or looking sick?
- OR is parent/carer very worried?



2. Is the history suggestive of infection? Tick

- Yes, but source not obvious
- Pneumonia/ likely chest source
- Meningitis/ encephalitis
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Abdominal pain, drawing legs up, or distension
- Other (specify:)



3. Is ONE Red Flag present? Tick

- Objective change in behaviour or mental state
- Doesn't wake if roused or won't stay awake
- Looks very ill to health professional
- SpO₂ < 90% on air
- Severe tachypnoea (see chart)
- Severe tachycardia (see chart)
- Bradycardia (< 60 per minute)
- Not passed urine in last 18 h
- Non-blanching rash/ mottled, ashen or blue skin
- Temperature < 36°C



Red Flag Sepsis!

This is time-critical, immediate action is required!

Immediate actions:

Blue light transfer. Administer oxygen to keep saturations >94%

Low risk of sepsis. **If concerned consider other diagnoses, transfer as required.** Use standard protocols. If not for transfer recommend contact GP/OOH/111 if concerned, or 999 if child deteriorates rapidly

Give safety netting advice: call 999 if child deteriorates rapidly, or call 111/ arrange to see GP if condition fails to improve or gradually worsens. Signpost parent to available resources as appropriate.



4. Is any ONE Amber Flag present? Tick

- Behaving abnormally/ not wanting to play
- Significantly decreased activity/ parental concern
- SpO₂ < 92% on air
- Moderate tachypnoea (see chart)
- Moderate tachycardia (see chart)
- Cap refill time ≥ 3 seconds
- Reduced urine output
- Leg pain
- Cold feet or hands

If immunity also impaired treat as Red Flag Sepsis



Sepsis likely

Transfer to designated destination.
Communicate likelihood of sepsis at handover.

Age	Tachypnoea		Tachycardia	
	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
5 y	≥ 29	27-28	≥ 130	120-129
6-7 y	≥ 27	24-26	≥ 120	110-119
8-11 y	≥ 25	22-24	≥ 115	105-114

Communication:

Pre-alert receiving hospital: 'Patient has Red Flag Sepsis'
Divert to the Emergency Department (or other agreed destination)
Handover presence of Red Flag Sepsis