

Your logo

Prehospital Sepsis Screening and Action Tool



THE UK SEPSIS TRUST

To be applied to all children **under 5 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

1. Are obs. abnormal?

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

Tick

Y

2. Is the history suggestive of infection?

- Yes, but source not obvious
- Pneumonia/ likely chest source
- Meningitis/ encephalitis
- Urinary Tract Infection
- Abdominal pain, drawing legs up, or distension
- Contact risk of bacteraemia (e.g. Group B Strep)
- Other (specify:

Tick

Y

3. Is ONE Red Flag present?

- No response to social cues/ obviously sick
- Doesn't wake if roused or won't stay awake
- Weak, high pitched or continuous cry
- Looks very ill to health professional
- Grunting with every breath OR pauses in breathing
- SpO₂ < 90% on air
- Severe tachypnoea (see chart)
- Severe tachycardia (see chart)
- No wet nappies/ not passed urine in last 18 h
- Non-blanching rash/ mottled, ashen or blue skin
- Temperature < 36°C
- If under 3 months, temperature ≥ 38°C

Tick

Y

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, call 111/ arrange to see GP if condition fails to improve or gradually worsens. Signpost to available resources.

N

4. Is any ONE Amber Flag present?

- Responding abnormally to social cues, not smiling
- Wakes only with prolonged stimulation
- Significantly decreased activity
- Nasal flaring
- SpO₂ < 91% on air
- Moderate tachypnoea (see chart)
- Moderate tachycardia (see chart)
- Cap refill time ≥ 3 seconds
- Poor feeding in infants
- Reduced urine output
- Leg pain
- Cold feet or hands, pale or flushed

Tick

If immunity also impaired treat as Red Flag Sepsis

Y

Sepsis likely

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

Age	Tachypnoea		Tachycardia	
	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
< 1 y	≥ 60	50-59	≥ 160	150-159
1-2 y	≥ 50	40-49	≥ 150	140-149
3-4 y	≥ 40	35-39	≥ 140	130-139

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