

Paediatric Early Warning Scoring Tool (PEWS)

This is a guide only and should not take priority over your clinical judgement or other clinical pathways for specific conditions if a diagnosis has been reached.

This tool should be used in conjunction with [the NICE Traffic Light System for identifying Risk of Serious Illness](#) and the [NICE Summary of symptoms and signs suggestive of specific diseases](#). Scoring will be calculated as follows red will score 3, grey will score 2, amber will score 1 and green will score 0. The scores for each parameter will be added up and a total score will be documented at the bottom of the chart. This total score will be used to decide which actions from the policy on the reverse of the chart to follow. The maximum possible score is 12.

Respiratory Rate

Age	3	1	0	1	3
Under 4 months	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-54	Over 54
4-months-2 years	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-55	Over 55
2-5 years	Under 10	10-19	20-29	30-45	Over 45
5-12 years	Under 10	10-19	20-29	30-45	Over 45
Over 12 years	Under 10	10-15	15-25	25-45	Over 45
Score:					

Heart Rate

Age	3	1	0	1	3
Under 4 months	Under 80	80-109	110-159	160-190	Over 190
4-months-2 years	Under 80	80-99	100-149	150-180	Over 180
2-5 years	Under 60	60-79	80-119	120-150	Over 150
5-12 years	Under 60	60-69	70-119	120-150	Over 150
Over 12 years	Below 60	60-69	70-99	100-150	Over 150
Score:					

Capillary Refill Time

Age	0	1	3
All Ages	Under 2 seconds	3-4 seconds	Over 4 seconds
Score:			

Conscious level

Age	0	2	3
All Ages	Alert	Responds to pain/voice	Unresponsive
Score:			

GP Comments/Concerns:

Total PEWS Score:

Blood pressure will not score on PEWS; the parameters for normal blood pressure are:

Age	
<4 mths	60-80
4mth - 2yrs	70-89
2-5 years	90-129
5-12 years	90-129
Over 12 years	90-129

Saturations Guide
95% and above
92-94%
Less than 92%

Urgent Paediatric Care Pathway

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LOW RISK - PEWS Score– no reds or ambers

Consider **ADVICE FOR HOME CARE** including when to seek further attention from health care services.

INTERMEDIATE RISK - PEWS Score – ambers with no reds PATIENT UNWELL BUT NOT AN EMERGENCY

Children with 'amber' but no 'red' features and no diagnosis has been reached

Provide parents with a safety net for further assessment: with one or more of the following:

- Provide the parent or carer with **VERBAL AND/OR WRITTEN INFORMATION ON WARNING SYMPTOMS** and how further healthcare can be accessed.
- Arrange for a further follow-up at a specified time and place
- Consider **HOT CLINIC**
 1. GP to phone 01254 263555 and ask to speak to paediatric HOT consultant for advice
 2. Outside 12:30 to 14:30 ask to speak to On-call registrar or first on call consultant
 3. If GP can be seen, complete EMIS referral form, email to urgentpaediatricreferrals.elht@nhs.net or fax 01254736390
 4. Coordinator will contact practice with date and time of appointment
 5. GP Practice to contact family with details including HOT Clinic Number 01254 733528.
- Consider **CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY NURSING TEAM (CCN)** for acute paediatric nursing care/assessment and management in the home.
 1. Make referral via telephone before 4pm if same day visit required on 01254 732843
 2. Referral accepted—CCN contact family. If unable to contact within 2 hrs will contact GP
 3. Appropriate acute nursing care provided. Child discharged back to GP when appropriate and GP informed of outcome.

HIGH RISK - PEWS Score reds

Consider **EMERGENCY ADMISSION**

Children who symptoms or combination of symptoms suggest an immediately life threatening illness, including children with fever who are shocked, unrousable or showing signs of meningococcal disease – consider **AMBULANCE TRANSFER**.

Children with any red features but not considered to have an immediately life threatening illness should be referred urgently to the care of a paediatric specialist.

1. Children with suspected meningococcal disease - give parenteral antibiotics at earliest opportunity.
2. GP to phone 01282 204421 to refer to Children Observation and Assessment Unit (COAU) at Royal Blackburn Hospital or Children's Minor Injuries Unit (CMIU) at Burnley General Hospital