



Suspected sepsis: evaluating risk of severe illness or death in all settings

Age	High risk	Moderate to high risk
Heart rate (beats per minute)		
5	130 or more	120 to 129
6 or 7	120 or more	110 to 119
8 to 11	115 or more	105 to 114
All ages	Less than 60	
Respiratory rate (breaths per minute)		
5	29 or more	24 to 28
6 or 7	27 or more	24 to 26
8 to 11	25 or more	22 to 24
Temperature (°C)		
All ages		Less than 36 (tympanic temp.)
Respiration: other criteria		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen saturation < 90% in air, OR increased oxygen requirement over baseline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oxygen saturation < 92% in air, OR increased oxygen requirement over baseline
<p>Note: some pulse oximeters can underestimate or overestimate oxygen saturation levels, especially if the saturation level is borderline. Overestimation has been reported in people with dark skin. See also the NHS England Patient Safety Alert on the risk of harm from inappropriate placement of pulse oximeter probes.</p>		



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Behaviour		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective evidence of altered mental state • Appears ill to a healthcare professional • Does not wake, or if roused does not stay awake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not behaving normally • Decreased activity • Parent or carer concern that child is behaving differently from usual
Other criteria		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mottled or ashen appearance • Cyanosis of skin, lips or tongue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capillary refill time 3 seconds or more • Reduced urine output OR for catheterised patients, less than 1 ml/kg of urine per hour • Leg pain • Cold hands or feet
All ages	Low risk No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met	



Also see the visual summaries on:

[Managing risk of severe illness or death outside acute hospital settings](#)

[Managing risk of severe illness or death in acute hospital settings](#)