

Table 3 Risk stratification tool for children aged under 5 years with suspected sepsis

Category	Age	High risk criteria	Moderate to high risk criteria	Low risk criteria
Behaviour	Any	<p>No response to social cues</p> <p>Appears ill to a healthcare professional</p> <p>Does not wake, or if roused does not stay awake</p> <p>Weak high-pitched or continuous cry</p>	<p>Not responding normally to social cues</p> <p>No smile</p> <p>Wakes only with prolonged stimulation</p> <p>Decreased activity</p> <p>Parent or carer concern that child is behaving differently from usual</p>	<p>Responds normally to social cues</p> <p>Content or smiles</p> <p>Stays awake or awakens quickly</p> <p>Strong normal cry or not crying</p>
Respiratory	Any	<p>Grunting</p> <p>Apnoea</p> <p>Oxygen saturation of less than 90% in air or increased oxygen requirement over baseline</p>	<p>Oxygen saturation of less than 91% in air or increased oxygen requirement over baseline</p> <p>Nasal flaring</p>	No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met
	Under 1 year	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 60 breaths per minute or more</p>	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 50–59 breaths per minute</p>	
	1–2 years	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 50 breaths per minute or more</p>	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 40–49 breaths per minute</p>	
	3–4 years	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 40 breaths per minute or more</p>	<p>Raised respiratory rate: 35–39 breaths per minute</p>	

Circulation and hydration	Any	Bradycardia: heart rate less than 60 beats per minute	Capillary refill time of 3 seconds or more Reduced urine output For catheterised patients, passed less than 1 ml/kg of urine per hour	No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met
	Under 1 year	Rapid heart rate: 160 beats per minute or more	Rapid heart rate: 150–159 beats per minute	
	1–2 years	Rapid heart rate: 150 beats per minute or more	Rapid heart rate: 140–149 beats per minute	
	3–4 years	Rapid heart rate: 140 beats per minute or more	Rapid heart rate: 130–139 beats per minute	
Skin	Any	Mottled or ashen appearance Cyanosis of skin, lips or tongue Non-blanching rash of skin		Normal colour
Temperature	Any	Less than 36°C		
	Under 3 months	38°C or more		
	3–6 months		39°C or more	
Other	Any		Leg pain Cold hands or feet	No high risk or high to moderate risk criteria met

This table is adapted from NICE's guideline on [fever in under 5s](#).