

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

Age	High risk	Moderate to high risk
<b>Heart rate (beats per minute)</b>		
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	
<b>Respiratory rate (breaths per minute)</b>		
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
<b>Temperature (°C)</b>		
All ages		Less than 36 (tympanic temp.)
<b>Respiration: other criteria</b>		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxygen saturation &lt; 90% in air, <b>OR</b> increased oxygen requirement over baseline</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oxygen saturation &lt; 92% in air, <b>OR</b> increased oxygen requirement over baseline</li> </ul>
<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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Age	High risk	Moderate to high risk
<b>Behaviour</b>		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Objective evidence of altered mental state</li> <li>Appears ill to a healthcare professional</li> <li>Does not wake, or if roused does not stay awake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not behaving normally</li> <li>Decreased activity</li> <li>Parent or carer concern that child is behaving differently from usual</li> </ul>
<b>Other criteria</b>		
All ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mottled or ashen appearance</li> <li>Cyanosis of skin, lips or tongue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capillary refill time 3 seconds or more</li> <li>Reduced urine output <b>OR</b> for catheterised patients, less than 1 ml/kg of urine per hour</li> <li>Leg pain</li> <li>Cold hands or feet</li> </ul>
All ages	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Low risk</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No high risk or moderate to high risk criteria met</p>	



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](#)