

To be applied to all children **aged 5-11 years** who have a suspected infection or have clinical observations outside normal limits

**1. In the context of presumed infection, are any of the following true:**

(consider pneumonia, meningitis/encephalitis, urinary tract infection, intra-abdominal infection, acquired bacteraemia (e.g. Group B Strep))

Tick

Patient looks very unwell

Parent or carer is very concerned

There is ongoing deterioration

Physiology is abnormal for this patient

**N**

Low risk of sepsis. Consider other diagnoses.  
Use clinical judgment and/or standard protocols.

Give safety netting advice: call 999 if child deteriorates rapidly, or call 111/ arrange to see GP if condition fails to improve or gradually worsens. Signpost parent to available resources as appropriate.

**3. Any Amber Flag criteria?**

Tick

Parent or clinician remains very concerned

Behaving abnormally/ not wanting to play

Significantly decreased activity/ parental concern

SpO<sub>2</sub> < 92% on air

Moderate tachypnoea (see chart)

Moderate tachycardia (see chart)

Cap refill time ≥ 3 seconds

Reduced urine output

Leg pain

Cold feet or hands

**2. Is ONE Red Flag present?**

Tick

Objective change in behaviour or mental state

Doesn't wake if roused or won't stay awake

Looks very ill

SpO<sub>2</sub> < 90% on air

Severe tachypnoea (see chart)

Severe tachycardia (see chart)

Bradycardia (< 60 per minute)

Not passed urine in last 18 h

Mottled, ashen or blue skin, lips or tongue

Temperature < 36°C

**Sepsis likely**

Use clinical judgment to determine whether child can be managed in community setting. If treating in the community, consider:

- planned second assessment +/- blood results
- brief written handover to colleagues
- specific safety netting advice

*If immunity impaired refer for urgent hospital assessment*

**Red Flag Sepsis!**

Dial 999, arrange blue light transfer

Administer oxygen to maintain saturations >94%

Write a brief clear handover

Ensure crew pre-alert as 'Red Flag Sepsis'

Age	Tachypnoea		Tachycardia	
	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
5 y	≥ 29	27-28	≥ 130	120-129
6-7 y	≥ 27	24-26	≥ 120	110-119
8-11 y	≥ 25	22-24	≥ 115	105-114