

## Traffic light system for identifying risk of serious illness

	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red high risk
Colour (of skin, lips or tongue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal colour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pallor reported by parent/carer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pale/mottled/ashen/blue</li> </ul>
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responds normally to social cues</li> <li>Content/smiles</li> <li>Stays awake or awakens quickly</li> <li>Strong normal cry/not crying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not responding normally to social cues</li> <li>No smile</li> <li>Wakes only with prolonged stimulation</li> <li>Decreased activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No response to social cues</li> <li>Appears ill to a healthcare professional</li> <li>Does not wake or if roused does not stay awake</li> <li>Weak, high pitched or continuous cry</li> </ul>
Respiratory		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nasal flaring</li> <li>Tachypnoea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RR &gt;50 breaths/minute, age 6–12 months</li> <li>RR &gt;40 breaths/minute, age &gt;12 months</li> </ul> </li> <li>Oxygen saturation ≤95% in air</li> <li>Crackles in the chest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grunting</li> <li>Tachypnoea: RR &gt;60 breaths/minute</li> <li>Moderate or severe chest indrawing</li> </ul>
Circulation and hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal skin and eyes</li> <li>Moist mucous membranes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tachycardia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;160 beats/minute, age &lt;12 months</li> <li>&gt;150 beats/minute, age 12–24 months</li> <li>&gt;140 beats/minute, age 2–5 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>CRT ≥3 seconds</li> <li>Dry mucous membranes</li> <li>Poor feeding in infants</li> <li>Reduced urine output</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced skin turgor</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None of the amber or red symptoms or signs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age 3–6 months, temperature ≥39°C</li> <li>Fever for ≥5 days</li> <li>Rigors</li> <li>Swelling of a limb or joint</li> <li>Non-weight bearing limb/not using an extremity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age &lt;3 months, temperature ≥38°C*</li> <li>Non blanching rash</li> <li>Bulging fontanelle</li> <li>Neck stiffness</li> <li>Status epilepticus</li> <li>Focal neurological signs</li> <li>Focal seizures</li> </ul>
CRT, capillary refill time; RR, respiratory rate * Some vaccinations have been found to induce fever in children aged under 3 months			
<b>This traffic light table should be used in conjunction with the recommendations in the <a href="#">NICE guideline on fever in under 5s</a>.</b>			