

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

SpO₂ < 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

SpO₂ < 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