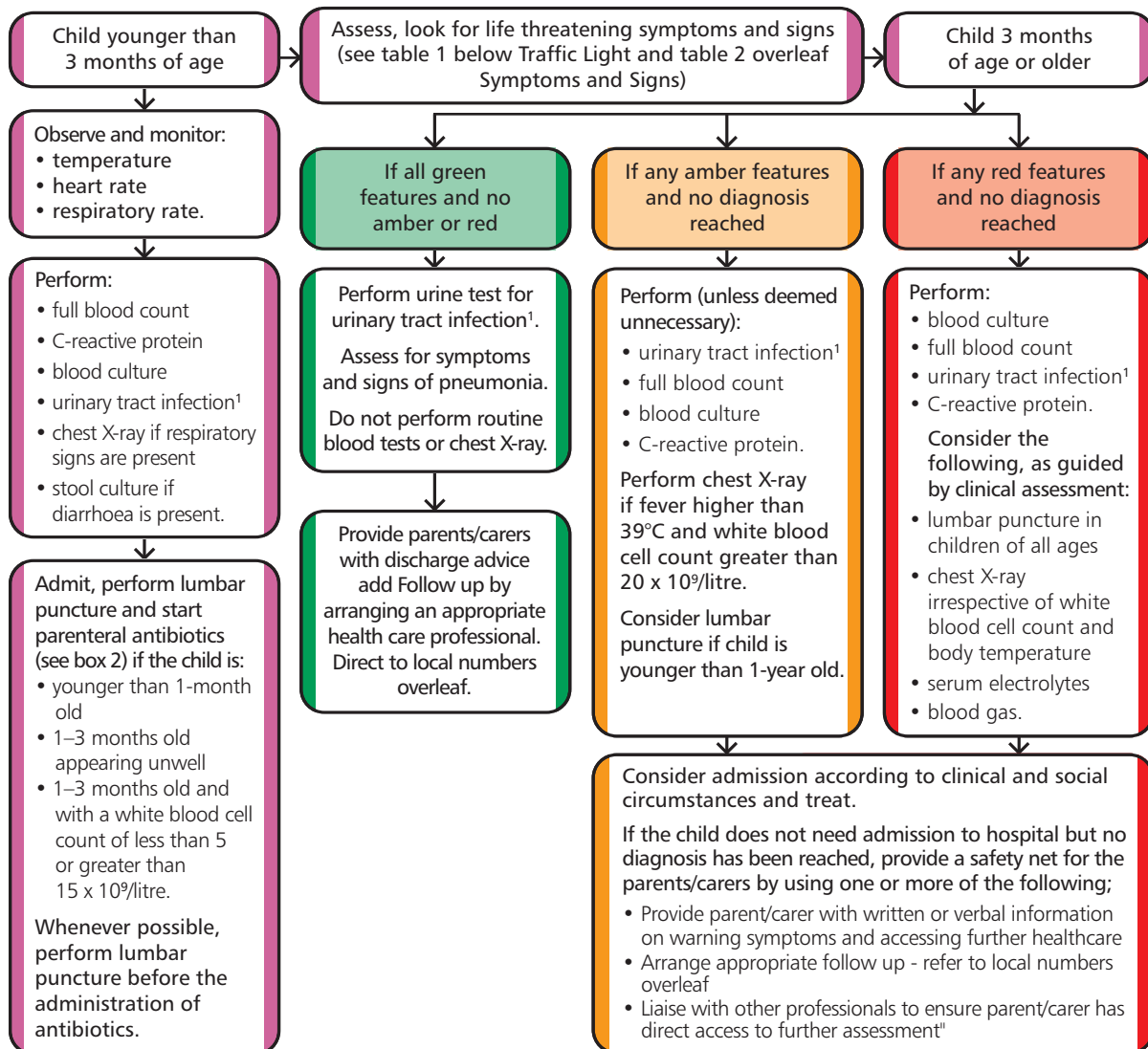


# Clinical Assessment Tool for the Febrile Child 0-5 Years

Management by a paediatric practitioner



<sup>1</sup> See 'Urinary tract infection in children', NICE clinical guideline CG54.

**Table 1 Traffic light system for identifying likelihood of serious illness**

	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
<b>Colour</b>	• Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue	• Pallor reported by parent/carer	• Pale/mottled/ashen/blue
<b>Activity</b>	• Responds normally to social cues • Content/smiles • Stays awake or awakens quickly • Strong normal cry/not crying	• Not responding normally to social cues • Wakes only with prolonged stimulation • Decreased activity • No smile	• No response to social cues • Appears ill to a healthcare professional • Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake • Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
<b>Respiratory</b>		• Nasal flaring • Tachypnoea: – RR > 50 breaths/minute age 6–12 months – RR > 40 breaths/minute age >12 months • Oxygen saturation ≤ 95% in air • Crackles	• Grunting • Tachypnoea: – RR > 60 breaths/minute • Moderate or severe chest indrawing
<b>Hydration</b>	• Normal skin and eyes • Moist mucous membranes	• Dry mucous membrane • Poor feeding in infants • CRT ≥ 3 seconds • Reduced urine output	• Reduced skin turgor
<b>Other</b>	• None of the amber or red symptoms or signs	• Fever for ≥ 5 days • Swelling of a limb or joint • Non-weight bearing/not using an extremity • A new lump > 2 cm	• Age 0–3 months, temperature ≥ 38°C • Age 3–6 months, temperature ≥ 39°C • Non-blanching rash • Bulging fontanelle • Neck stiffness • Status epilepticus • Focal neurological signs • Focal seizures • Bile-stained vomiting
CRT: capillary refill time      RR: respiratory rate			

# Clinical Assessment Tool for the Febrile Child 0-5 Years



Management by a paediatric practitioner

Paediatric specialist: a healthcare professional who has had specific training or has recognised expertise in the management of children and their illnesses. Examples include paediatricians and healthcare professionals working in children's emergency departments.

**Table 2 Symptoms and signs of specific diseases**

Diagnosis to be considered	Symptoms and signs in conjunction with fever
Meningococcal disease	<b>Non-blanching rash, particularly with one or more of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an ill-looking child</li> <li>• lesions larger than 2 mm in diameter (purpura)</li> <li>• CRT <math>\geq</math> 3 seconds</li> <li>• neck stiffness</li> </ul>
Meningitis <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neck stiffness</li> <li>• Bulging fontanelle</li> <li>• Decreased level of consciousness</li> <li>• Convulsive status epilepticus</li> </ul>
Herpes simplex encephalitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focal neurological signs</li> <li>• Focal seizures</li> <li>• Decreased level of consciousness</li> </ul>
Pneumonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tachypnoea, measured as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 0–5 months – RR &gt; 60 breaths/minute</li> <li>– 6–12 months – RR &gt; 50 breaths/minute</li> <li>– &gt; 12 months – RR &gt; 40 breaths/minute</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Crackles in the chest</li> <li>• Nasal flaring</li> <li>• Chest indrawing</li> <li>• Cyanosis</li> <li>• Oxygen saturation <math>\leq</math> 95%</li> </ul>
Urinary tract infection (in children aged older than 3 months) <sup>2</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vomiting</li> <li>• Abdominal pain or tenderness</li> <li>• Lethargy</li> <li>• Urinary frequency or dysuria</li> <li>• Irritability</li> <li>• Offensive urine or haematuria</li> </ul>
Septic arthritis/osteomyelitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swelling of a limb or joint</li> <li>• Non-weight bearing</li> <li>• Not using an extremity</li> </ul>
Kawasaki disease <sup>3</sup>	<b>Fever lasting longer than 5 days and at least four of the following:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bilateral conjunctival injection</li> <li>• change in upper respiratory tract mucous membranes (for example, injected pharynx, dry cracked lips or strawberry tongue)</li> <li>• change in the peripheral extremities (for example, oedema, erythema or desquamation)</li> <li>• polymorphous rash</li> <li>• cervical lymphadenopathy</li> </ul>
CRT: capillary refill time                      RR: respiratory rate	
<small>1 Classical signs (neck stiffness, bulging fontanelle, high-pitched cry) are often absent in infants with bacterial meningitis.            2 Urinary tract infection should be considered in any child aged younger than 3 months with fever. See 'Urinary tract infection in children' (NICE clinical guideline, publication expected August 2007).            3 Note: in rare cases, incomplete/atypical Kawasaki disease may be diagnosed with fewer features.</small>	

## This guidance is written in the following context

This assessment tool is based on NICE guidance, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. The guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

## Some Useful Telephone Numbers

GP/Practice Nurse (Parent to complete) .....

Health Visitor – (If you do not know this number you may be able to locate your health visitor at one of the health centres below)

Liverpool Road Health Centre	.....01582 70 81 51	Wheatfield Road Surgery	.....01582 66 07 38
Marsh Farm Health Centre	.....01582 70 74 44	Wigmore Lane Health Centre	....01582 70 73 33
Queensborough House	.....01582 70 76 60		

Community Nurse .....(If applicable - Regents Court 01582 70 81 39)

Walk in Centre .....01582 55 64 00

Opening Times (as at July 2009) Mon-Fri – 8am to 7-30pm / Sat – 8am to 3-30pm / Sunday – Closed / Bank Holidays – 8am to 7-30pm

NHS Direct.....0845 46 47 Open 24hrs – 7 days [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)