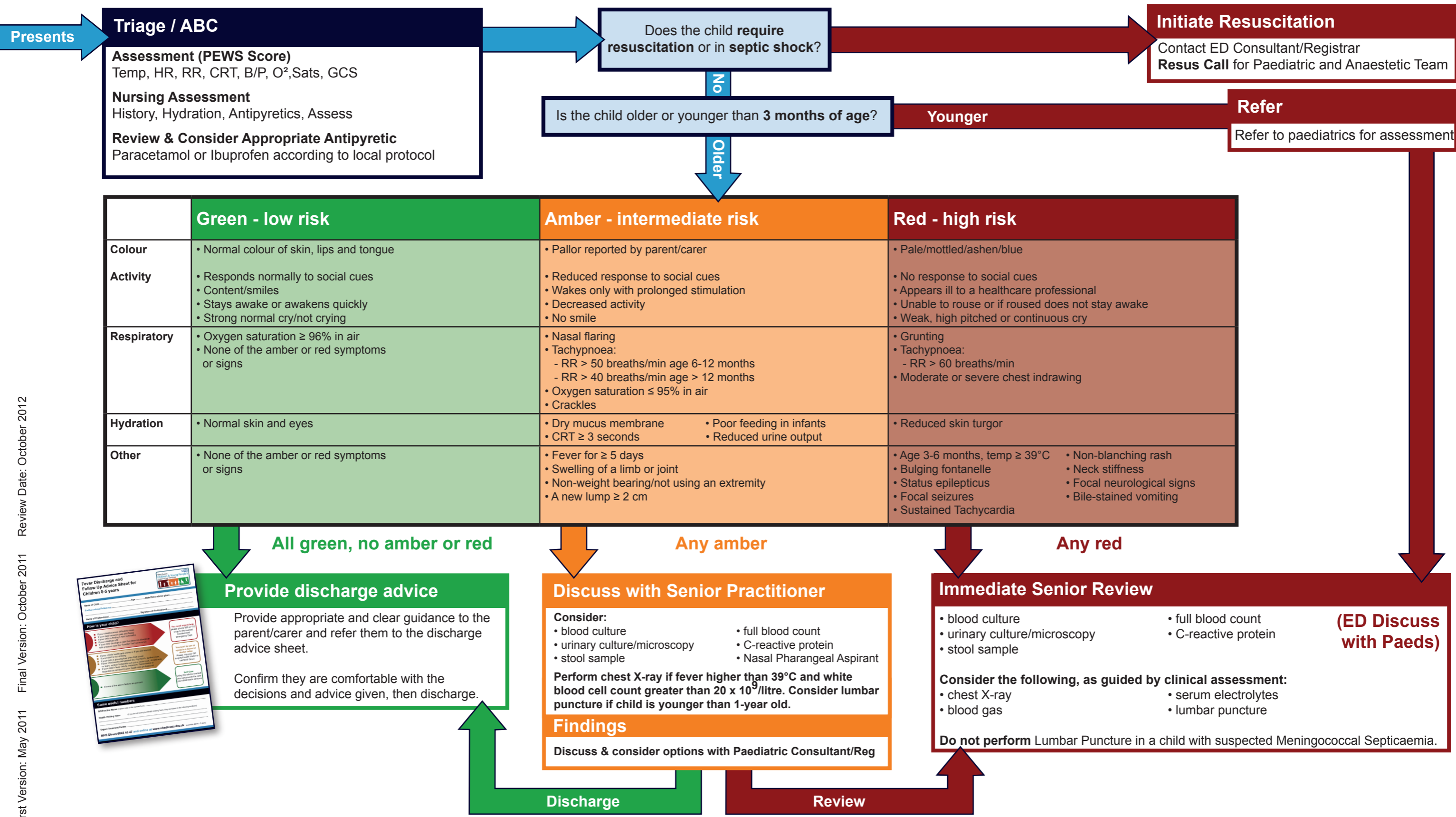


Fever Pathway and Assessment in Acute Settings for Children 0-5 years



First Version: May 2011 Final Version: October 2011 Review Date: October 2012

What is a fever?

For the purposes of this guideline and according to NICE (ref: CG47), fever was thus defined as 'an elevation of body temperature above the normal daily variation'. Scientific studies relating to fever used inclusion criteria typically defined a fixed body temperature such as $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or higher.

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

B/P	Blood Pressure	ED	Emergency Department
CRT	Capillary Refill Time	CPD	Continuous Professional Development
GCS	Glasgow Coma Score	HR	Heart Rate
PEWS	Paediatric Early Warning Score	RR	Respiratory Rate

Where can I learn more about paediatric assessment?

Whilst all trusts and healthcare providers organise in-house training and have links to Universities, we also recommend signing up to the online and interactive learning tool Spotting the Sick Child.

Commissioned by the Department of Health to support health professionals in the assessment of the acutely sick child, Spotting the Sick Child guides you through learning resources focussed on developing your assessment skills. It is also CPD certified.

www.spottingthesickchild.com



Here's a big thank you to all those who developed of these tools

Aaron Gain	Dr Farhana Damda	Dr Mike Linney
Amanda Wood	Dr Fiona Weir	Fiona Mackison
Carole Perry	Dr Helen Milne	Fiona Wookey
Carolyn Phillips	Dr Neeshima Jain	Jane Mulcahy
Catherine Holroyd	Dr Kamal Khoobarry	Jeannie Baumann
Chris Morris	Dr Kate Andrews	Joanne Farrell
Christine McDermott	Dr Mwape Kabole	Karen Hearnden
Claire O'Callaghan	Dr Oli Rahman	Kath Evans
Clare Lyons Amos	Dr Palla Prabhakara	Kathy Walker
Denise Matthams	Dr Stuart Nicholls	Kim Morgan
Dr Amit Bhargava	Dr Tim Fooks	Lois Pendlebury
Dr Ann Corkery	Dr Tim Taylor	Lorraine Mulrone
Dr Debbie Pullen	Dr Venkat Reddy	Matthew White

Melissa Hancorn
Moira Gardiner
Patricia Breach
Rebecca C 'Aileta
Rosie Courtney
Rosie Rowlands
Sarah West
Sue Pumphrey
Wang Cheung

Dear Colleague,

The West Sussex Children & Young Peoples Urgent Care Network would like to introduce you to the High Volume Pathway Assessment Tool for **Fever in Acute Settings for Children aged 0-5 years**.

Established in 2010, the Network, supported by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement has worked across organisations in and around West Sussex developing assessment tools for use in primary care and community settings as well within acute hospitals.

The work builds on a movement of rapid improvement programmes which have taken place across the NHS in England facilitated by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement focussed on the most common illnesses and injuries. It is based on the concept that by focussing on a limited range of high volume pathways, the NHS can make the maximum impact on improving the quality and value of care for patients.

The local clinical group who played such an important role in creating these tools included clinical representatives from acute, community and primary care, all working towards three main objectives:

- To **promote evidence-based assessment and management** of unwell children & young people for the most common conditions when accessing local NHS services in an emergency or urgent scenario
- To **build consistency across West Sussex**, so all healthcare professionals understand the pathway and can assess, manage and support children, young people and their families during the episode to the same high standards regardless of where they present
- To support local healthcare professionals to **share learning and expertise across organisations** in order to drive continuous development of high quality urgent care pathways for children & young people.

These assessment tools are developed using both national guidance such as NICE and SIGN publications, along-side local policies and protocols, and have been subject to clinical scrutiny and an initial pilot. Whilst it is hoped that all healthcare professionals who work with children & young people along this pathway will acknowledge and embed the use of this guidance, it must be stressed that the guidance does not override the individual responsibility of the healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient in consultation with them.

The tools will be subject to review and evaluation and all healthcare professionals are welcome to feedback on their experience of using the tools by contacting a colleague listed on the back page.

We hope these tools support you and your colleagues to provide ever improving high quality care for children & young people on the urgent and emergency care pathway.

Yours Sincerely

The Network

