

Fever Pathway

Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$

< 3 months

Do the symptoms and/or signs suggest an immediately life threatening (high risk) illness?

Consider serious infection

- Meningococcal disease
- Pneumonia
- Kawasaki
- Herpes simplex encephalitis
- Meningitis
- UTI
- Septic arthritis

	Green – Low Risk	Amber – Intermediate Risk	Red – High Risk
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds normally to social cues • Content/smiles • Stays awake/awakens quickly • Strong normal cry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altered response to social cues • No smile • Reduced activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not responding normally or no response to social cues • Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake • Weak, high pitched or continuous cry • Appears ill
Skin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal skin colour • CRT <2 secs • Normal skin turgor • Warm extremities • Normal eyes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal skin colour • Pallor reported by parent/carer • Cool peripheries • CRT 2-3 secs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pale, mottled, ashen • Cold extremities • CRT >3 secs • Sunken eyes
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No respiratory distress • <12m: RR <50bpm • 1-5y: RR <40bpm • O₂ Sats: $\geq 95\%$ • No chest recessions • No nasal flaring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tachypnoea • Moderate recessions • May have nasal flaring • <12m: RR 50-60bpm • 1-5y: RR 40-60bpm • O₂ Sats: 92-94% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant respiratory distress • Grunting • Apnoeas • Severe recessions • Nasal flaring • All ages: RR >60bpm • O₂ Sats: $\leq 92\%$
Circulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolerating 75% of fluid • Normal urine output • Peripheral pulses normal • HR normal • Moist mucous membranes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50-75% fluid intake over 3-4 feeds • Dry mucous membranes • Reduced urine output (>1 wet nappy/24h) • Peripheral pulses normal • Tachycardia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% or less fluid intake over 2-3 feeds • Dry mucous membranes • Reduced urine output (no wet nappy/24h) • Peripheral pulses weak • Tachycardia • Hypotensive
Fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemically well, • T <38°C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 3-6m: T $\geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Fever for $\geq 5\text{d}$ • Rigors • Swelling of a limb or joint • Non-weight bearing limb/not using an extremity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age <3m: T $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ • Non-blanching rash • Bulging fontanelle • Neck stiffness • Status epilepticus • Focal neurological signs • Focal seizures
		• Parental anxiety	
	GREEN ACTION	AMBER ACTION	

IDENTIFY FOCUS

NO FOCUS

URINE DIPSTICK

MANAGE

MANAGE

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

Follow UTI pathway

If you feel the child is ill, need O₂, unclear focus or struggling with hydration, discuss with paediatrician on-call

RED ACTION

- Refer immediately to emergency care or paediatric unit – consider 999
- Commence stabilisation treatment
- If sepsis, consider antibiotics if transfer time > 1h Benzylpenicillin <1y: 300mg, 1-9y 600mg



- Provide information
- Confirm they understand

- Same day review
- Consider booking into PATH

AND