**PAEDIATRIC EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (PEWS) FOR GENERAL PRACTICE**

RECOGNISING THE DETERIORATING CHILD

This is a guide and should not take priority over your clinical judgement.

**Heart rate (beats/min)** If the child is emotionally distressed allow time to settle and repeat measurement

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AGE** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 3mths | Under 100 | 100 - 109 | 110 -159 | 160 - 184 | Over 185 |
| 3mths to 1yrs | Under 95 | 95 - 104 | 105 - 149 | 150 - 179 | Over 180 |
| 2yrs to 4yrs | Under 75 | 75 - 84 | 85 - 119 | 120 - 149 | Over 150 |
| 5yrs to 11yrs | Under 60 | 60 - 69 | 70 - 119 | 120 - 134 | Over 135 |
| Over 12yrs | Under 60 | 60 - 69 | 70 - 99 | 100 - 134 | Over 135 |

**Respiratory rate (breaths/minute)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **AGE** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 3mths | Under 20 | 20 - 24 | 25 - 59 | 60 - 74 | Over 75 |
| 3mths to 1yrs | Under 20 | 20 – 24 | 25 - 54 | 55 – 69 | Over 70 |
| 2yrs to 4yrs | Under 16 | 16 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 – 44 | Over 45 |
| 5yrs to 11yrs | Under 14 | 14 - 19 | 20 - 29 | 30 – 44 | Over 45 |
| Over 12yrs | Under 10 | 10 – 14 | 15 - 24 | 25 – 34 | Over 35 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Under 2 secs | Over 3 secs |

**Capillary refill time**

|  |
| --- |
| **ALL AGES** |

**Conscious level**

|  |
| --- |
| **ALL AGES** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alert | Responds to voice/pain or Unresponsive |

|  |
| --- |
| **ALL AGES** |

|  |  |  |
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| 1 to 2 | 3 to 4 | Over 4 |

**Parental/Guardian concern (Number of presentations in one week)**

**The following are to be used as a guide only:**

**LOW RISK No amber or red triggers.**

Advice for home care including when parent or guardian should seek further advice.

**INTERMEDIATE RISK Amber and no diagnosis. No red triggers.**

Provide parent or guardian with verbal and/or written information on warning symptoms and provide a plan of action which includes time and date for review. Consider discussing with on-call paediatrician.

**HIGH RISK One or more red triggers.**

Arrange urgent transfer to nearest paediatric unit.

Adapted from VICTOR, Victorian Children’s Tool for Observation and Response, and the NICE Traffic Light System for Identifying Risk of Serious Illness. Incorporates parental concern as a trigger.

