

Supplementary table 1: The NICE Traffic light system for assessing the risk of serious illness in children with fever¹

	Green-low risk	Amber-intermediate risk	Red-high risk
Colour	Normal colour of skin , lips, and tongue	Pallor reported by parent/carer	Pale/mottled/ashen blue
Activity	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 Does not wake or if roused does not stay awake Weak/high pitched/continuous cry
Respiratory		Nasal flaring Tachypnoea: RR >50breaths/min, age 6-12 months RR >40 breaths /min, age >12 months Oxygen saturation ≤ 95% in air Crackles	Grunting Tachypnoea: RR >60 breaths /min Moderate or severe chest indrawing
Hydration	Normal skin and eyes Moist mucous membranes	Dry mucous membrane Poor feeding in infants CRT ≥3 s Reduced urine output	Reduced skin turgor
Other	None of the amber or red symptoms or signs	Fever for ≥5 days Swelling of limb or joint Non-weight bearing limb or not using an extremity A new lump >2 cm	Age 0-3 months, temperature ≥38 ⁰ C Age 3-6 months, temperature ≥39 ⁰ 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.

Children with features in the red column are at high risk of serious illness. Children with any features in the amber column and none in the red column are at intermediate risk of serious illness. Those with features in the green column, and none in the amber or red columns, are at low risk.

Reference

1. National Collaborating Centre for Women's and Children's Health. *Feverish illness in children: assessment and initial management in children younger than five years*. London: RCOG Press, 2007:<http://www.nice.org.uk/CG047fullguideline>.