**Traffic light system for identifying risk of serious illness**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colour (of skin, lips or tongue)</th>
<th>Green – low risk</th>
<th>Amber – intermediate risk</th>
<th>Red – high risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Normal colour</td>
<td>● Pallor reported by parent/carer</td>
<td>● Pale/mottled/ashen/blue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Green – low risk</th>
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</table>
| ● Responds normally to social cues  
● Content/smiles 
● Stays awake or awakens quickly 
● Strong normal cry/not crying |
| ● Not responding normally to social cues 
● No smile 
● Wakes only with prolonged stimulation 
● Decreased activity |
| ● No response to social cues 
● Appears ill to a healthcare professional 
● Does not wake or if roused does not stay awake 
● Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry |

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<th>Respiratory</th>
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| ● Nasal flaring 
● Tachypnoea:  
  - RR >50 breaths/minute, age 6–12 months 
  - RR >40 breaths/minute, age >12 months 
● Oxygen saturation ≤95% in air 
● Crackles in the chest |
| ● Grunting 
● Tachypnoea: RR >60 breaths/minute 
● Moderate or severe chest indrawing |

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<th>Circulation and hydration</th>
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| ● Normal skin and eyes 
● Moist mucous membranes | ● Tachycardia:  
  - >160 beats/minute, age <12 months 
  - >150 beats/minute, age 12–24 months 
  - >140 beats/minute, age 2–5 years 
● CRT ≥3 seconds 
● Dry mucous membranes 
● Poor feeding in infants 
● Reduced urine output |
| ● Reduced skin turgor |

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<th>Other</th>
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| ● None of the amber or red symptoms or signs | ● Age 3–6 months, temperature ≥39°C 
● Fever for ≥5 days 
● Rigors 
● Swelling of a limb or joint 
● Non-weight bearing limb/not using an extremity |
| ● Age <3 months, temperature ≥38°C 
● Non-blanching rash 
● Bulging fontanelle 
● Neck stiffness 
● Status epilepticus 
● Focal neurological signs 
● Focal seizures |

* CRT, capillary refill time; RR, respiratory rate

* This traffic light table should be used in conjunction with the recommendations in the guideline on investigations and initial management in children with fever. See [http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG160](http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG160) (update of NICE clinical guideline 47).