

Prehospital paediatric sepsis screening and action tool

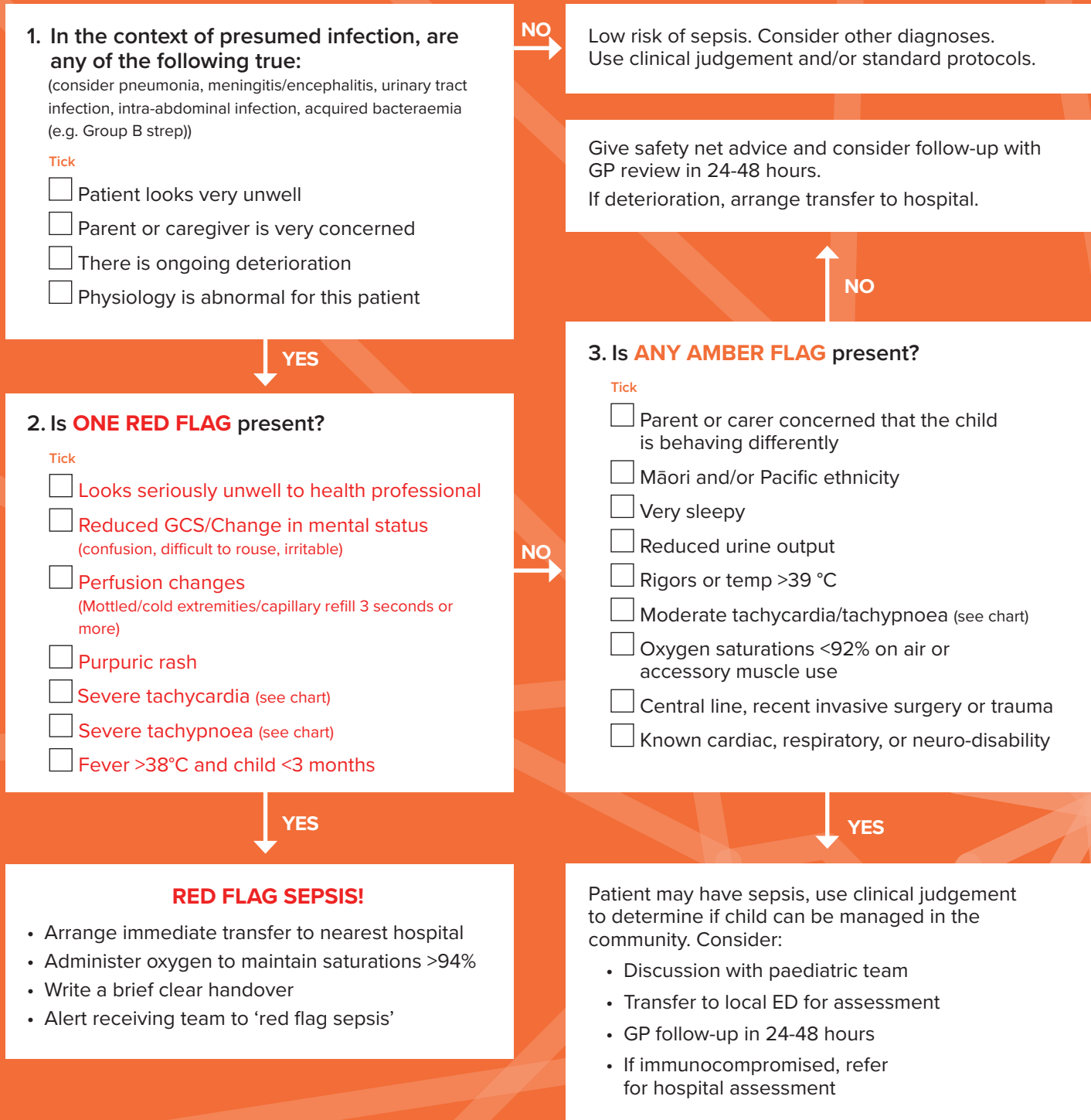
To be applied to all patients **under 16 years of age.**

Patient label

Name

NHI DOB

Address



1. In the context of presumed infection, are any of the following true:

(consider pneumonia, meningitis/encephalitis, urinary tract infection, intra-abdominal infection, acquired bacteraemia (e.g. Group B strep))

Tick

- Patient looks very unwell
- Parent or caregiver is very concerned
- There is ongoing deterioration
- Physiology is abnormal for this patient

YES

2. Is ONE RED FLAG present?

Tick

- Looks seriously unwell to health professional
- Reduced GCS/Change in mental status (confusion, difficult to rouse, irritable)
- Perfusion changes (Mottled/cold extremities/capillary refill 3 seconds or more)
- Purpuric rash
- Severe tachycardia (see chart)
- Severe tachypnoea (see chart)
- Fever >38°C and child <3 months

YES

RED FLAG SEPSIS!

- Arrange immediate transfer to nearest hospital
- Administer oxygen to maintain saturations >94%
- Write a brief clear handover
- Alert receiving team to 'red flag sepsis'

NO

Low risk of sepsis. Consider other diagnoses. Use clinical judgement and/or standard protocols.

Give safety net advice and consider follow-up with GP review in 24-48 hours. If deterioration, arrange transfer to hospital.

NO

3. Is ANY AMBER FLAG present?

Tick

- Parent or carer concerned that the child is behaving differently
- Māori and/or Pacific ethnicity
- Very sleepy
- Reduced urine output
- Rigors or temp >39 °C
- Moderate tachycardia/tachypnoea (see chart)
- Oxygen saturations <92% on air or accessory muscle use
- Central line, recent invasive surgery or trauma
- Known cardiac, respiratory, or neuro-disability

YES

Patient may have sepsis, use clinical judgement to determine if child can be managed in the community. Consider:

- Discussion with paediatric team
- Transfer to local ED for assessment
- GP follow-up in 24-48 hours
- If immunocompromised, refer for hospital assessment

Age (years)	Tachypnoea		Tachycardia	
	Severe	Moderate	Severe	Moderate
< 1 years	≥ 60	50-59	≥ 160	150-159
1-2 years	≥ 50	40-49	≥ 150	140-149
3-4 years	≥ 40	35-39	≥ 140	130-139
5 years	≥ 29	27/28	≥ 130	120-129
6-7 years	≥ 27	24-26	≥ 120	110-119
8-11 years	≥ 25	22-24	≥ 115	105-114
> 12 years	≥ 25	21-24	≥ 130	91-130