

Table 1 Traffic light system for identifying likelihood of serious illness

	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pallor reported by parent/carer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pale/mottled/ashen/blue
Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or awakens quickly Strong normal cry/ not crying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not responding normally to social cues Wakes only with prolonged stimulation Decreased activity No smile 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response to social cues Appears ill to a healthcare professional Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
Respiratory		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasal flaring Tachypnoea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR > 50 breaths/minute age 6–12 months RR > 40 breaths/minute age > 12 months Oxygen saturation $\leq 95\%$ in air Crackles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grunting Tachypnoea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR > 60 breaths/minute Moderate or severe chest indrawing
Hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal skin and eyes Moist mucous membranes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry mucous membrane Poor feeding in infants CRT ≥ 3 seconds Reduced urine output 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced skin turgor
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the amber or red symptoms or signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever for ≥ 5 days Swelling of a limb or joint Non-weight bearing/ not using an extremity A new lump > 2 cm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 0–3 months, temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ Age 3–6 months, temperature $\geq 39^{\circ}\text{C}$ Non-blanching rash Bulging fontanelle Neck stiffness Status epilepticus Focal neurological signs Focal seizures Bile-stained vomiting

CRT: capillary refill time
RR: respiratory rate