

Guideline for Hospital Admission

Ministry of Public Health - Lebanon

Clinical assessment and admissions for Fever in Children younger than 5 years

Children with fever and **any** of the symptoms or signs in the High risk column should be recognized as being at high risk; **hospital admission is recommended**.

Children with fever and **any** of the symptoms or signs in the Intermediate risk column and none in the High risk column should be recognized as being at intermediate risk; **hospital admission may be recommended**; do consider other factors outlined at end of guideline.

Children with symptoms and signs in the Low risk column and none in the Intermediate or High risk column are at low risk; **treatment at home is recommended**; do consider other factors outlined at end of guideline.

In addition to the child's clinical condition (assessed as per above table), the following factors should be considered when deciding whether to admit a child with fever to hospital:

- Social and family circumstances
- Other illnesses that affect the child or other family members
- Parental anxiety and instinct (based on their knowledge of their child)
- Contacts with other people who have serious infectious diseases
- Recent travel abroad to tropical/subtropical areas, or areas with a high risk of endemic infectious disease
- When the parent or carer's concern for their child's current illness has caused them to seek healthcare advice repeatedly
- Where the family has experienced a previous serious illness or death due to feverish illness which has increased their anxiety levels
- When a feverish illness has no obvious cause, but the child remains ill longer than expected for a self-limiting illness.

References:

UK NICE Guideline, Fever in Children younger than 5 years (2007).

Checklist:

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

CRT, Capillary refill time; RR, respiratory rate.