



PRIMIS

making clinical data work

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Feverish Illness in Children under Five

This audit tool assists GP practices in quickly identifying children under the age of five who have presented with a feverish illness in the last three months. The tool enables practices to review their clinical management of febrile illness in children and, in turn, increase use of the risk rating (traffic light) system recommended by NICE.

Feverish illness is a common occurrence in young children, often signalling an underlying infection. It can also be a precursor to sepsis, a potentially life-threatening condition that can lead to widespread inflammation, swelling, blood clotting and a significant decrease in blood pressure. Around 37,000 deaths are attributed to sepsis each year.

Identifying sepsis promptly in primary care could help save lives and reduce pressure on secondary care resources. NICE guidance (CG160) recommends measuring temperature, heart rate, respiratory rate and capillary refill rate as part of the routine assessment.

The feverish illness audit tool uses the CHART analysis software and provides practices with detailed, easy to follow results. CHART summarises data at both practice and clinician level but also provides the ability to drill down to examine detailed patient level data.

This audit tool can help practices by:

- comparing their clinical management of young children presenting with a fever with current NICE guidance
- improving assessment of patients at risk of sepsis and who may require admission
- allowing examination of practice and patient level and even clinician level results
- extracting relevant data from the clinical IT system for quick and easy analysis
- facilitating practice based and/or clinician based clinical audit
- encouraging use of the NICE recommended risk rating and management options
- examining coding practice, including coding choice and accuracy



Feverish Illness management - CHART dashboard summary

The Feverish Illness in Children under Five audit tool uniquely benefits from the option to switch between whole practice data and that for a specific clinician.

This facilitates reflection upon individual clinical practice and supports GP appraisal and revalidation processes.

Age Breakdown (Yrs)

View the age breakdown of children recently attending with febrile illness

Select Clinician

Switch between whole practice data and that for specific clinicians

Routine Recorded Assessment Criteria

Examine recording levels of key assessment criteria recommended by NICE

Practice Avg v Clinician Max & Min

Compare practice average rates for key criteria against individual clinician rates in order to reduce variation

Number of Criteria Completed

Reveal how many of the five recommended criteria are being recorded per patient

Other Recorded Data

Observe recording levels of other useful data items and numbers with a suggested traffic light status of red/amber

Traffic Light Recorded Status v Suggested Status

Compare recorded traffic light status with the status suggested by specific recorded data items, highlighting the number of mismatches

Five key actions following use of the Feverish Illness in Children under Five audit tool

Identify any patients where their recorded traffic light status differs to their suggested status (pre-set filter 1)

Review these patients to determine why the differences exist. If they are caused by data recording issues (e.g absence of key criteria), consider whether recording processes can be improved in any way.

Review patients with no traffic light status recorded (pre-set filter 2)

Again look for reasons why such data are not being recorded. Can recording processes be improved? Consider use of the standardised data entry tools that are available.

Examine recording levels for heart rate, respiratory rate and capillary refill rate (pre-set filter 3)

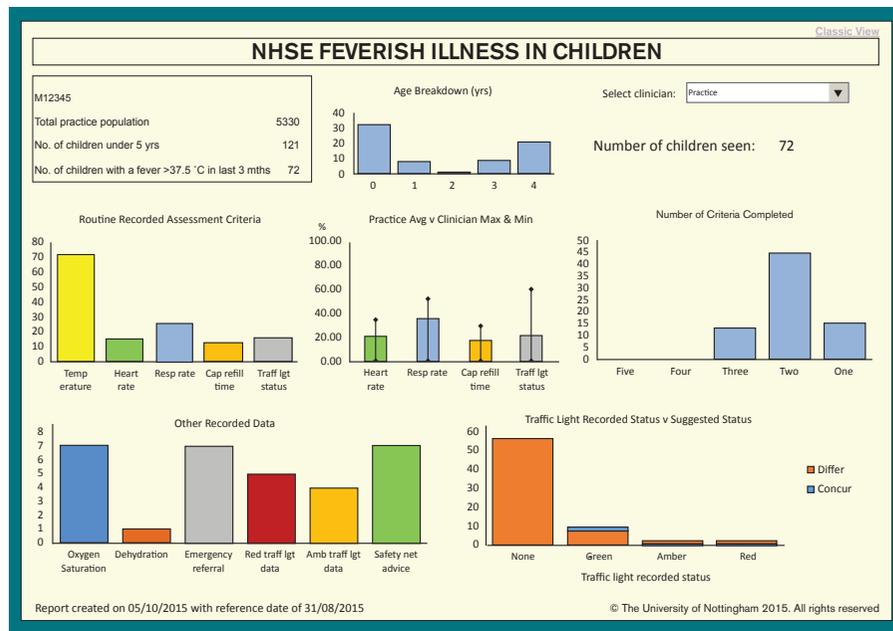
NICE guidance (CG160) recommends measuring these items as part of the routine assessment of children with febrile illness. Where recording levels are low, try to establish the reason for this.

Increase use of the NICE risk rating (traffic light) system within the practice

Use the results of the audit to generate discussion within the practice and with peers. Results can be used to encourage implementation of the NICE risk rating (traffic light) system.

Use the accompanying data entry tools to improve recording of key criteria

The provision of these data entry tools can help to standardise data entry within the practice and reduce coding errors.



PRIMIS audit tools are designed to signpost practices to patients who may be of interest and/or concern and not to replace clinical decision making.

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Feverish Illness in Children under Five

Use of Feverish Illness is FREE to practices registered with the PRIMIS Hub online membership service*.

Basic membership is FREE of charge and includes access to all three audit tools within the GRASP suite, plus both CHART and CHART Online software tools.

Feverish Illness in Children under Five works with PRIMIS CHART.

Sign up for FREE basic PRIMIS Hub membership at: www.nottingham.ac.uk/primis/joinus

* Please note: there is an additional process prior to use of this audit tool. All Hub members must first request access within the Hub online area (similar to the access permission required to view the GRASP suite audit tools) and view and sign the Data Sharing Agreement, after which the audit tool will appear CHART's 'Check for Updates' facility.