

PRIORITY 2: Action Required

Update to the HSE Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS) Guidance



Who needs to take action on this safety issue?

Hospital Group and Hospital CEOs, Directors/ Leads of Quality, Patient Safety & Risk Managers, Heads of Service for Quality & Safety Service Improvement, General Managers, Clinical Directors, Directors of Nursing, Chairs Deteriorating Patients Committee / PEWS Committee.



What is the safety issue?

PEWS observation charts and training material currently in use are in need of an urgent update to reflect the recent HSE Sepsis Programme guidance for children and young people. The current PEWS charts may not guide the clinical staff to a diagnosis of sepsis.

A HSE PEWS governance group have reviewed the following documents and have made the following interim changes to align with new Sepsis Guidance for Children.

- Patient observation charts to include updated Sepsis Banner
- PEWS guidance and training presentations
- Information for PEWS leads and trainers



What action is required?

1. **Disseminate** this HSE National Patient Safety Alert to all staff caring for children in your organisation.
2. **Remove** existing printed versions of all Paediatric observation charts
3. **Replace** existing charts with updated (2023) versions, available at [PEWS webpage](#) and also see attached (Types A and B).
 - **Type A** is for use in sites/services where there is a Paediatric Medicine Team available 24/7
 - **Type B** is for use in sites/services where a Paediatric Medicine Team is not available 24/7
4. **Revise** any local training to reflect updated national guidance. The PEWS material previously available online has been adjusted to reflect these changes and can be accessed here: [PEWS webpage](#)
5. **Complete** three monthly audits following completion of actions 2 & 3 (above) to provide assurance that no old versions of the charts are in circulation.



When does the action need to be completed

Allowing time for printing and updating of the Paediatric Observation Charts and training material, actions 1-4 should be completed by **July 31st 2023**

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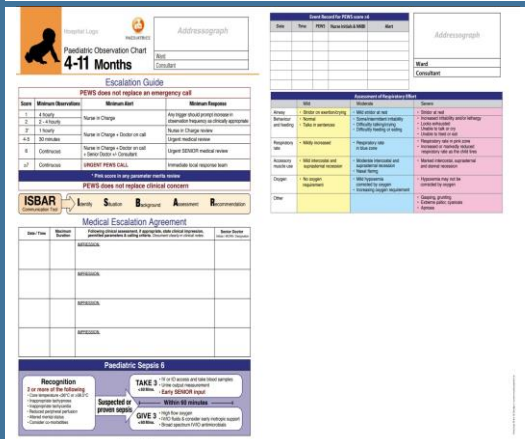
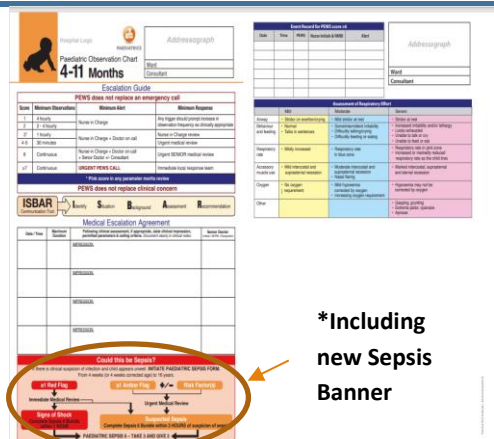
Why is this action required?

The Irish Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS) National Clinical Guideline No. 12 was published in 2015 and updated in 2016 ([PEWS Guidance](#)). Since this time the [International Sepsis Guidelines for Children Implementation Plan 2021](#) and [Paediatric Sepsis Form](#) (together the Sepsis Guidelines) have been developed and published by the HSE National Clinical Programme for Sepsis. The HSE documentation developed to support staff implement the 2016 PEWS guideline does not currently adhere to the new Sepsis Guidance and, as a result, PEWS training material and PEWS observation charts currently in use across the system are not aligned to the Sepsis Guidance.

What stakeholders were involved in issuing this HSE National Patient Safety Alert?

This alert has been developed collaboratively by the:

- HSE National Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS) Interim Governance Group, including representation from;
 - National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead for Children and Young People
 - Faculty of Paediatrics
 - National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate
 - Nurse Leadership representation
 - Children’s Health Ireland
 - Acute Operations representation
 - Sepsis Programme representation
 - Deteriorating Patients Improvement Programme (DPIP)
- HSE National Patient Safety Alerts Committee

Example of existing chart - Remove -	Example of updated chart - Use -
	

***Including new Sepsis Banner**

What evidence supports the issuing of this HSE NPSA?

[International Sepsis Guidelines for Children](#)

Where can I get further information?

- For more information on PEWS please contact your local PEWS Coordinator or visit the [PEWS webpage](#)
- For queries on HSE National Patient Safety Alerts please visit www.hse.ie/pst or email patientsafetytogether@hse.ie