

National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2

Physiological parameter	Score						
	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiration rate (per minute)	≤8		9–11	12–20		21–24	≥25
SpO ₂ Scale 1 (%)	≤91	92–93	94–95	≥96			
SpO ₂ Scale 2 (%)	≤83	84–85	86–87	88–92 ≥93 on air	93–94 on oxygen	95–96 on oxygen	≥97 on oxygen
Air or oxygen?		Oxygen		Air			
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	≤90	91–100	101–110	111–219			≥220
Pulse (per minute)	≤40		41–50	51–90	91–110	111–130	≥131
Consciousness				Alert			CVPU
Temperature (°C)	≤35.0		35.1–36.0	36.1–38.0	38.1–39.0	≥39.1	

What NEWS2 means for your patient: your guide to NEWS2 for **normally well patients**

Concern about a patient should lead to escalation, regardless of the score.



Think sepsis! In a patient with a NEWS2 score of 5 or more and a known infection, signs and symptoms of infection, or at risk of infection, think 'Could this be sepsis?' and escalate care immediately.

3 Threat

The patient's vital signs are indicating they may not be physiologically at full health and there is a **risk** they could deteriorate. Consider whether acute referral is required or whether the patient can be safely monitored at home.

5 reFer

Where clinically appropriate consideration should be given to obtaining an **urgent** medical review in an acute care setting.

7 SEVere

It is highly likely that this patient is deteriorating and consideration should be obtaining an **emergency** medical review in an acute care setting.

In an acute setting this should prompt escalation to a critical care outreach team and probable transfer to a high dependency setting.



Is referral appropriate?

NEWS2 is not to be applied to patients under the age of 16 or pregnant women.

Escalation must be appropriate to a patient's care plan – consider end of life care.

Oxygen saturation scale2 should only be used for patients with hypercapnic respiratory failure (usually due to COPD) who have clinically recommended oxygen saturation of 88–92%.

If scale 2 has been used this should be clearly and explicitly documented on the patient clinical record.