

Royal College of Physicians – National Early Warning Score (NEWS) 2

This information is taken from the Royal College of Physicians website

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/outputs/national-early-warning-score-news-2>

The NEWS is based on a simple aggregate scoring system in which a score is allocated to physiological measurements, already recorded in routine practice, when patients present to, or are being monitored in hospital. Six simple physiological parameters form the basis of the scoring system:

1. respiration rate
2. oxygen saturation
3. systolic blood pressure
4. pulse rate
5. level of consciousness or new confusion*
6. temperature.

Each setting will have methods to record this data, this guide is for your information only.

Chart 1: The NEWS scoring system

Physiological parameter	3	2	1	Score 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	

Chart 2: NEWS thresholds and triggers

NEWS score	Clinical risk	Response
Aggregate score 0–4	Low	Ward-based response
Red score Score of 3 in any individual parameter	Low–medium	Urgent ward-based response*
Aggregate score 5–6	Medium	Key threshold for urgent response*
Aggregate score 7 or more	High	Urgent or emergency response**

* Response by a clinician or team with competence in the assessment and treatment of acutely ill patients and in recognising when the escalation of care to a critical care team is appropriate.

**The response team must also include staff with critical care skills, including airway management.

Chart 4: Clinical response to the NEWS trigger thresholds

NEWS score	Frequency of monitoring	Clinical response
0	Minimum 12 hourly	Continue routine NEWS monitoring
Total 1–4	Minimum 4–6 hourly	- Inform registered nurse, who must assess the patient - Registered nurse decides whether increased frequency of monitoring and/or escalation of care is required
3 in single parameter	Minimum 1 hourly	Registered nurse to inform medical team caring for the patient, who will review and decide whether escalation of care is necessary
Total 5 or more Urgent response threshold	Minimum 1 hourly	- Registered nurse to immediately inform the medical team caring for the patient - Registered nurse to request urgent assessment by a clinician or team with core competencies in the care of acutely ill patients - Provide clinical care in an environment with monitoring facilities
Total 7 or more Emergency response threshold	Continuous monitoring of vital signs	- Registered nurse to immediately inform the medical team caring for the patient – this should be at least at specialist registrar level - Emergency assessment by a team with critical care competencies, including practitioner(s) with advanced airway management skills - Consider transfer of care to a level 2 or 3 clinical care facility, ie higher-dependency unit or ICU - Clinical care in an environment with monitoring facilities

Chart 3 – NEWS Observation Chart

NEWS key		FULL NAME										DATE OF BIRTH										DATE OF ADMISSION																			
0 1 2 3																																									
		DATE										TIME										DATE										TIME									
A+B Respirations Breaths/min	≥25																																								
	21–24																																								
	18–20																																								
	15–17																																								
	12–14																																								
	9–11																																								
	≤8																																								
A+B SpO ₂ Scale 1 Oxygen saturation (%)	≥96																																								
	94–95																																								
	92–93																																								
	≤91																																								
SpO₂ Scale 2¹ Oxygen saturation (%) Use Scale 2 if target range is 98–100%, eg in hypercapnic respiratory failure ¹ONLY use Scale 2 under the direction of a qualified clinician	≥97 on O ₂																																								
	95–96 on O ₂																																								
	93–94 on O ₂																																								
	≥93 on air																																								
	88–92																																								
	86–87																																								
	84–85																																								
	≤83%																																								
Air or oxygen?	A=Air																																								
	O ₂ L/min Device																																								
C Blood pressure mmHg Score uses systolic BP only	≥220																																								
	201–219																																								
	181–200																																								
	161–180																																								
	141–160																																								
	121–140																																								
	111–120																																								
	101–110																																								
	91–100																																								
	81–90																																								
	71–80																																								
	61–70																																								
	≤50																																								
C Pulse Beats/min	≥131																																								
	121–130																																								
	111–120																																								
	101–110																																								
	91–100																																								
	81–90																																								
	71–80																																								
	61–70																																								
	51–60																																								
	≤30																																								
D Consciousness Score for NEWS must be confirmed for score 4 or lower	Alert																																								
	Confusion																																								
	V																																								
	P																																								
E Temperature °C	≥39.1°																																								
	38.1–39.0°																																								
	37.1–38.0°																																								
	36.1–37.0°																																								
	≤35.0°																																								
NEWS TOTAL																																									
Monitoring frequency																																									
Escalation of care Y/N																																									
Initials																																									

National Early Warning Score 2 (NEWS2) © Royal College of Physicians 2017