Table 2

Traffic light system for identifying risk of serious illness[2]

Children with fever and:
— any of the symptoms or signs in the red column are high risk
— any of the symptoms or signs in the amber column and none in the red column are intermediate risk
— symptoms and signs in the green column and none in the amber or red columns are low risk

	Green = Low risk	Amber = Intermediate risk	Red = High risk
Colour of skin, lips or tongue	● Normal colour	● Pallor reported by parent/carer	● Pale/mottled/ashen/blue
Activity	● Responds normally to social cues ● Content/smiles ● Stays awake or awakens quickly ● Strong normal cry/not crying	● Not responding normally to social cues ● No smile ● Wakes only with prolonged stimulation ● Decreased activity	● No response to social cues ● Appears ill to a healthcare professional ● Does not wake or if roused does not stay awake ● Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry
Respiratory		● Nasal flaring ● Tachypnoea: > 50 breaths/min, age 6-12 months > 40 breaths/min, age > 12 months ● Oxygen saturation ≤ 95% in air ● Crackles in the chest	● Grunting ● Tachypnoea: > 60 breaths/min ● Moderate or severe chest indrawing
Circulation and hydration	● Normal skin and eyes ● Moist mucous membranes	● Tachycardia: > 160 beats/min, age < 1 year > 150 beats/min, age 1-2 years > 140 beats/min, age 2-5 years ● Capillary refill time ≥ 3 sec ● Dry mucous membranes ● Poor feeding in infants ● Reduced urine output	● Reduced skin turgor
Other	● None of the amber or red symptoms or signs	● Age 3-6 months, temperature ≥ 39° C ● Fever ≥ 5 days ● Rigors ● Swelling of a limb or joint ● Non-weight bearing limb/not using an extremity	● Age < 3 months, temperature ≥ 38°C ● Non-blanching rash ● Bulging fontanelle ● Neck stiffness ● Status epilepticus ● Focal neurological signs ● Focal seizures