

1.2 CLASSIFY ALL SICK YOUNG INFANTS FOR BACTERIAL INFECTION

Classify all sick young infants for bacterial infection. Compare the infant's signs to signs listed and choose the appropriate classification. If the infant has any sign in the top row, select **VERY SEVERE DISEASE**. An infant who has none of the signs gets no classification of bacterial infection. Select only one classification in this table.

SIGNS:

CLASSIFY AS:

TREATMENT:

(Urgent pre-referral treatments are in bold print)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convulsions or ▪ Fast breathing (60 breaths per minute or more) or ▪ Severe chest indrawing or ▪ Nasal flaring or ▪ Grunting or ▪ Bulging fontanelle or ▪ Pus draining from the ear or ▪ Umbilical redness extending to the skin or ▪ Fever (37.5 C or above or feels hot) or low body temperature (less than 35.5oC or feels cool) or ▪ Many or severe skin pustules or ▪ Lethargic or unconscious or ▪ Less movement than normal ▪ Jaundice 	<p>VERY SEVERE DISEASE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Give first dose of intramuscular antibiotic.</i> ➤ <i>Treat to prevent low blood sugar</i> ➤ <i>Advise mother how to keep the young infant warm on the way to hospital.</i> ➤ <i>Refer URGENTLY to hospital</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Red umbilicus or draining pus or ▪ Skin pustules 	<p>LOCAL BACTERIAL INFECTION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Give an appropriate oral antibiotic.</i> ➤ <i>Teach the mother to treat local infections at home.</i> ➤ <i>Advise mother to give home care for the young infant.</i> ➤ <i>Follow-up in 2 days.</i>

VERY SEVERE DISEASE

A young infant with signs in this classification may have a serious disease and be at high risk of dying. The infant may have pneumonia, sepsis or meningitis. It is difficult to distinguish between these infections in a young infant. Fortunately, it is not necessary to make this distinction.

A young infant with any sign of VERY SEVERE DISEASE needs urgent referral to hospital. Before referral, give a first dose of intramuscular antibiotics and treat to prevent low blood sugar. Malaria is unusual in infants of this age, so give no treatment for possible severe malaria.

Advising the mother to keep her sick young infant warm is very important. Young infants have difficulty maintaining their body temperature. Low temperature alone can kill young infants.

LOCAL BACTERIAL INFECTION

Young infants with this classification have an infected umbilicus or a skin infection.

Treatment includes giving an appropriate oral antibiotic at home for 5 days. The mother will also treat the local infection at home and give home care. She should return for follow-up in 2 days to be sure the infection is improving. Bacterial infections can progress rapidly in young infants.