

NEWS2 Frequently Asked Questions

What is a National Early Warning Score (NEWS)?

NEWS is a well validated track-and-trigger early warning score system that is used to identify and respond to patients at risk of deteriorating. The following six simple physiological parameters are included in the scoring system:

1. Respiratory rate
2. Oxygen saturations
3. Temperature
4. Systolic blood pressure
5. Pulse rate
6. Level of consciousness

A score is allocated to each physiological parameter, the magnitude of the score reflecting how extreme the parameter varies from the norm.

How often do I repeat the NEWS ?

A change in patients condition that is unexpected deterioration or recently admitted on your caseload following respite/hospital discharge.

What does the score mean?

An elevated NEWS score does not provide a diagnosis; it helps identify a sick patient who requires urgent clinical review in a standardised way.

However NEWS2 should be used alongside clinical judgement.

Which 02 Sats scale should I be using?

Scale 1 for all patients unless a senior clinician (ANP, CCM, Dr, Respiratory team) has specifically requested the use of Scale 2. If scale 2 is to be used then this should be stated clearly in the care plan and the NEWS2 chart. Put a line through the scale not being used.

What is the minimum score for escalation?

A score of 3 or more is a red flag for unexpected deterioration

PTO

What should be considered when using NEWS2?

Clinical judgement should always be used, even if the NEWS2 score is normal. Healthcare professionals should escalate deteriorating patients for review whenever they are concerned, even if the NEWS2 appears to be reassuring.

What are the benefits of using NEWS2 in the community?

NEWS2 can facilitate communication at the interfaces of care such as when requesting ambulance transfer or hospital assessment.

How does NEWS2 apply in EOL patients?

You would not be routinely monitoring obs as there is expected deterioration therefore there is a high probability that an EOL patient will score high on NEWS2 – is escalation appropriate? Is the patient on an end of life plan eg: SCP ?

What is SBAR ?

Situation, **B**ackground, **A**ssessment, **R**ecommendations

It is the national recognised communication model in the wider NHS in communicating amongst different NHS disciplines eg: community nurse and 999