

Appendix N: Neonatal Sepsis Clinical Presentation Worksheet



Clinical Case Definitions for Severe Bacterial Infection (SBI) and Sepsis at Birth

During the neonatal period (0-28 days):

Significant **Risk Factors** at Birth:

1. PROM \geq 18 hours
2. Maternal fever (axillary temp >37.5) at delivery time.
3. Perinatal asphyxia (APGAR ≤ 5 at 5 Minutes)
4. Foul smelling amniotic fluid
5. Very low birth weight (<1500 g)
6. Difficult birth (dystocia)
7. Infected twin
8. Leukorrhea or untreated urinary tract infection during pregnancy.
9. Home birth

Significant **signs/symptoms**: **A**=very common. **B**=less common sign of severe bacterial infection/ sepsis

1. Difficulty or refusal to suckle (A)
2. Acute crying, irritability (B)
3. Drowsiness, slow reaction times, hypotonia, coma (A)
4. Bulging fontanelle (A)
5. Convulsions (A)
6. Periumbilical erythema (A)
7. Respiratory rate > 60 /min (B)
8. Apnea (>15 s) or bradypnea (respiratory rate <20 /min) (A)
9. Hypothermia (<35.5 C)/ fever (axillary temperature >37.5 C) (A)
10. Purulent discharge from the eyes (A)
11. Hepatosplenomegaly (B)
12. Crepitations/crackles on pulmonary auscultation (A)

13. Jaundice (B)

14. Numerous skin pustules (B)

Criteria Useable by healthcare agents → hospitalization for medical evaluation:

1 RISK FACTOR + 1 (A) sign OR

1 RISK FACTOR + 2 (B) signs

Criteria for suspected infection after the age of 28 days (for BARNARDS up to 60 days)

1. Difficulty or refusal to suckle B
2. Acute crying/irritability B
3. Drowsiness, slow reaction time, hypotonia, coma. A
4. Bulging fontanelle A
5. Convulsions A
6. Respiratory frequency > 60 B
7. Apnoea (>15sec) or bradypnoea (respiratory rate <20) B
8. Hypothermia (<35.5.C) alternating with fever (>37.5.C) B
9. Purulent otorrhoea A
10. Purulent ocular discharge B
11. Periumbilical erythema A
12. Diarrhoea/vomiting B

Any baby with **1 category A sign** OR **2 category B signs** OR **1 category B sign +1 category A sign** will be admitted and investigated for severe infection.