

GUIDELINE

Managing possible serious bacterial infection in young infants when referral is not feasible



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Guideline: Managing possible serious bacterial infection in young infants when referral is not feasible

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Abbreviations and acronyms

AMR antimicrobial resistance

CHW community health worker

CI confidence interval

GDG Guideline Development Group

GRADE Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and

Evaluation

IM intramuscular

IMCI Integrated Management of Childhood Illness

MCA Department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health

PICO Population, Intervention, Control, Outcome

PSBI possible severe bacterial infection

RD risk difference

RR relative risk

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

USA United States of America

WHO World Health Organization

Definitions of key terms

Clinical severe infection: In a young infant (0–59 days old), at least one sign of severe infection, i.e. movement only when stimulated, not feeding well on observation, temperature greater than or equal to 38 °C or less than 35.5 °C or severe chest in-drawing.

Critical illness: In a sick young infant, presence of any of the following signs: unconscious, convulsions, unable to feed at all, apnoea, unable to cry, cyanosis, bulging fontanelle, major congenital malformations inhibiting oral antibiotic intake, active bleeding requiring transfusion, surgical conditions needing hospital referral, persistent vomiting (defined as vomiting following three attempts to feed the infant within 30 minutes, and the infant vomits after each attempt).

Fast breathing: In a young infant (0–59 days old), a respiratory rate of greater than or equal to 60 breaths per minute.

Fast breathing pneumonia: In a young infant (0–59 days old), a respiratory rate of greater than or equal to 60 breaths per minute as the only sign of possible infection.

Few events: Fewer than 50 events in the control arm (1).

Neonate: An infant between 0 and 28 days old.

Possible serious bacterial infection: A clinical syndrome used in the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness package referring to a sick young infant who requires urgent referral to hospital. The signs include:

- not able to feed since birth or stopped feeding well (confirmed by observation)
- convulsions
- fast breathing (60 breaths per minute or more) among infants less than 7 days old
- severe chest in-drawing

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