



Standard paediatric observation reference card

	Under 3 months		3–12 months		1–4 years		5–11 years		12 years and over	
Resp. rate (breaths per min)	30–55		30–45		20–40		20–30		15–20	
	25–29	56–65	25–29	46–55		41–50	15–19	31–35	10–14	21–30
	20–24	66–75	15–24	56–65	15–19	51–60	10–14	36–50	5–9	31–40
	< 20	>75	<15	>65	<15	>60	<10	>50	<5	>40
Heart rate (beats per min)	110–160		100–160		90–140		80–120		60–100	
	100–109	161–170	90–99	161–170	80–89	141–150	70–79	121–140	50–59	101–130
	80–99	171–190	80–89	171–180	70–79	151–170	60–69	141–160	40–49	131–150
	<80	>190	<80	>180	<70	>170	<60	>160	<40	>150
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	60–100		70–110		90–110		90–110		90–120	
						111–130		111–130		121–160
	50–59	101–120	60–69	111–130	80–89	131–160	80–89	131–160	80–89	161–200
	<50	>120	<60	>130	<80	>160	<80	>160	<80	>200

Additional criteria (all ages)

ACVPU	SpO ₂ %	Respiratory distress	Family/carer concern
A = Alert and appropriate for ability	95–100	Normal	Don't forget to ask: “Are you worried your child is getting worse?”
C = Change in behaviour or new confusion	90–94	Mild	
V = Rousable by voice		Moderate	
P = Rousable by pain	<90	Severe	
U = Unresponsive			

This is a quick reference guide only. All NSW Health services are to use the approved standard observation charts as part of their Deteriorating Patient Safety Net System.

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