

# NOVEMBER 16



## Implementation of revised Paediatric RDR charts (MR59B-F)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive//Medical in confidence

**Rapid Detection and Response Paediatric Observation Chart (0 - 3 months) MR-59B**

Government of South Australia SA Health

Affix patient identification label in this box

U.R. No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex/Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital/Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Chart Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mid Arm circumference: \_\_\_\_\_ Height: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A - GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**Minimum set of observations – Write in Section C**  
Take observations on child (at rest and record) on admission:

- Respiratory rate, oxygen saturation SpO<sub>2</sub>, blood pressure, pulse rate, temperature, pain score, level of consciousness
- Other observations as indicated including BGL, O<sub>2</sub> Flow rate, O<sub>2</sub> delivery method, capillary refill and level of sedation

**How to record observations in Section C**  
Place a dot (.) in the centre of the box that includes the current observation in its range of values. Connect the new dot to the previous dot with a straight line. Write the value in the relevant box for O<sub>2</sub> flow rate, BGL, and also if observations fall above or below graphic parameters as indicated.

For systolic blood pressure use the symbol indicated on the graphic chart. Use the right arm (unless contraindicated) to measure blood pressure. Document cuff size and the 95th percentile for this baby/child (at Section C). Refer to Section D (Modifications) for the blood pressure limits that trigger MDT review for this baby/child.

**Other Observations**  
Level of consciousness should be documented using the AVPU scale except for children receiving sedation and/or opioids, where a level of sedation score should be recorded in place of the level of consciousness.  
Select pain assessment tool appropriate for the age, developmental level and clinical state of the child. Refer to state and/or local guidelines for pain assessment tools.

**SECTION B - ASSESSMENT OF RESPIRATORY DISTRESS**  
Used together with Respiratory Rate to provide further information about the airway and breathing assessment. Not all features may be present. Escalate as indicated.

|                            | MILD  | MODERATE   | SEVERE  |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Airway</b>              | Stridor only with exertion / crying   | Some stridor at rest   | Biphasic or increasing severity of stridor at rest  |
| <b>Work of breathing</b>   | Mild chest retraction (intercostal and/or suprasternal recession)                         | Moderate chest retraction (marked intercostal and/or suprasternal recession)<br>Tracheal tug / head bob / nasal flaring may be present | Severe chest retraction (marked intercostal, suprasternal and sternal recession)<br>Tracheal tug / head bob / nasal flaring<br>Grunting / gasping |
| <b>Colour</b>              | Pink  | Pallor   | Dusky, mottled, cyanotic, extreme pallor  |
| <b>Behaviour / feeding</b> | Normal behaviour / interactive<br>No difficulty feeding<br>Talks in sentences<br>Loud cry | Intermittent irritability / difficult to console / more tired than usual<br>Difficulty feeding<br>Some difficulty talking (words only) | Agitated / confused or lethargic / looks exhausted<br>Refuses / unable to feed<br>Unable to talk or cry (too breathless)                          |
| <b>Apnoea</b>              | Transient<br>No desaturation  | Transient with brief desaturations   | Apnoea that is recurrent or prolonged or requires intervention  |
| <b>Oxygen</b>              | No oxygen requirement   | New or increasing oxygen requirement   | Hypoxaemia (SpO <sub>2</sub> < 90% on Oxygen, HHHFNO or CPAP)   |

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Page 1 of 4

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**SECTION G - RESPONSE CRITERIA AND ACTIONS TO TAKE**

**ALWAYS CHECK CURRENT MODIFICATIONS**

**MEDICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE (MER) CALL**

| RESPONSE CRITERIA - If one or more observations are in the purple zone, or one or more of the following are occurring:   | ACTIONS REQUIRED   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are worried about the patient</li> <li>A patient or consumer is worried</li> <li>Respiratory or cardiac arrest</li> <li>Threatened airway</li> <li>Significant bleeding</li> <li>Unexpected or uncontrolled seizure</li> <li>Consider for delayed MDT review (&gt; 30 minutes)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place emergency call and specify location</li> <li>Initiate basic/advanced life support</li> <li>Notify senior doctor responsible for patient</li> <li>Increase frequency of observations post intervention. Take advice from MER team</li> </ul> |

**MULTI DISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) REVIEW (Minimum team of registered nurse/midwife and medical practitioner)**

| RESPONSE CRITERIA - If one or more observations are in the red zone, or one or more of the following are occurring:  | ACTIONS REQUIRED   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are worried about the patient</li> <li>A patient or consumer is worried</li> <li>Poor peripheral circulation</li> <li>Greater than expected fluid loss</li> <li>Urine output &lt; 1ml/kg/hr over 4 hours or patient has not voided for 8 hours</li> <li>New or increase in O<sub>2</sub> flow rate</li> <li>Escalate to MER call if there are 3 or more observations in red zone</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MDT review must occur within 30 minutes (Rural Hospitals refer to local guidelines) or escalate to MER call</li> <li>Increase frequency of observations (minimum hourly)</li> <li>Escalate if there are ongoing fluctuations.</li> <li>Review SpO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> flow rate requirements</li> </ul> |

**REGISTERED NURSE OR REGISTERED MIDWIFE (and notify Shift Coordinator)**

| RESPONSE CRITERIA - If one or more observations are in the yellow zone, or one or more of the following are occurring:  | ACTIONS REQUIRED  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are worried about the patient</li> <li>A patient or consumer is worried</li> <li>Poor peripheral circulation</li> <li>New or unexplained behavioural change</li> <li>Unrelieved or unexpected pain</li> <li>Escalate to MDT review if there are 3 or more observations in yellow zone</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered nurse/midwife review must occur within 30 minutes, or escalate to MDT review</li> <li>Increase frequency of observations</li> <li>Manage anxiety, pain and other symptoms</li> <li>Review SpO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub> flow rate requirements</li> </ul> |

**SECTION H - SEDATION SCORE**

| Score | Descriptor                              | Stimulus               | Response   | Duration     |
|-------|---|------------------------|--|--------------|
| 3     | Difficult to rouse                      | Pain, shoulder squeeze | Brief eye opening OR any movement OR no response | N/A          |
| 2     | Easy to rouse, difficulty staying awake | Voice, light touch     | Eye opening and eye contact                      | < 10 seconds |
| 1     | Easy to rouse                           | Voice, light touch     | Eye opening and eye contact                      | ≥ 10 seconds |
| 0     | Awake, alert when approached            | N/A                    | N/A  | N/A          |

SA Health Revised April 2022

Page 4 of 4

All SA Health (non Sunrise EMR) sites with Paediatric patients adopt the revised Paediatric RDR charts on 16 November 2022. (EMR chart equivalent for release in December 2022)

### Education resources

Learn more about the changes to the Paediatric RDR charts, visit [sahealth.sa.gov.au/RDRcharts](http://sahealth.sa.gov.au/RDRcharts), or scan the QR code to watch the narrated presentation.

| Site Contacts | DHW/LHN Project Contact  |
|---------------|--|
|               | <p>DHW: Clinical Governance Unit<br/>celine.heithersay@sa.gov.au</p> <p>LHN:</p> |

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