

**PREM Triage questions with rationale**

Primary complaint: **Fever** with or without a clear focus

Ask if there has been any altered level of consciousness or breathlessness during this illness:

**Altered level of consciousness?**

- Infant: Incessant cry? Lethargy? Not his usual self? More sleepy than usual?
- Child: Agitation? Combativeness?

**Fever + altered level of consciousness = Septic shock**

**Breathlessness?**

- Episodic? Or since birth? (to rule out asthma, recurrent aspiration and congestive heart failure or chronic lung disease).

**Fever + altered level of consciousness + first acute episode of breathlessness**

= **Septic shock** with possible **pulmonary oedema** due to **acute lung injury** or **cardiac dysfunction**

*Adapted from the National Health Mission-Strengthening of Pediatric Emergency Care System in Tamil Nadu-Establishment of Pediatric Resuscitation and emergency Units under Tamil Nadu Accidents and Emergency Care Initiative under the name of PREM G.O(D)No. 539, Department of Health and Family Welfare, dated 30.11. November 2019.*