Standardised early warning system (SEWS) scores allocated for each clinical observation (adapted from [1]).

| Parameter | Score | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Respiratory rate (breaths/min) | ≤8 | | | 9-20 | 21-30 | 31-35 | ≥36 |
| Oxygen saturation (%) | <85 | 85-89 | 90-92 | ≥93 | | | |
| Temperature (°C) | <34 | 34-34.9 | 35-35.9 | 36-37.9 | 38-38.4 | ≥38.5 | |
| Systolic blood pressure (mmHg) | ≤69 | 70-79 | 80-99 | 100-199 | | ≥200 | |
| Heart rate (beats/min) | ≤29 | 30-39 | 40-49 | 50-99 | 100-109 | 110-129 | ≥130 |
| AVPU response (stimulus required to induce response) | Unresponsive | Pain | Verbal | Alert | | | |

Case example; a patient has respiratory rate = 26, oxygen saturation = 94%, temperature = 38.4, blood pressure = 84/62, heart rate = 107, and is alert, therefore SEWS = 4. The action required in response to the SEWS score is detailed on the charts and ranges from "Continue routine observation" with SEWS = 0, to "Call appropriate Registrar for immediate review" with SEWS ≥ 6. SEWS = 4 mandates immediate involvement of the nurse in charge and medical assessment within 20 minutes.

1. Paterson R, MacLeod DC, Thetford D, Beattie A, Graham C, Lam S, Bell D: **Prediction of in-hospital mortality and length of stay using an early warning scoring system: clinical audit.** *Clin Med* 2006, **6**(3):281-284.