

BC PEWS Summary Points

An Evidence Informed Clinical Tool

- ✓ Identifies children as soon as possible, who are at risk of clinical deterioration. Used for all patients regardless of acuity
- ✓ A complete system – not just a score (includes Brighton, Escalation Aid and Situational Awareness Factors as well as the documentation tools to support)
- ✓ Mitigates risk through clinical and procedural response
- ✓ Provides escalation of care guidance
- ✓ Provides a common language and communication framework to standardize care for children in BC

PEWS is not a substitute for clinical judgment.

Overall Strengths

- ✓ The evidence suggests there are positive directional trends with the use of PEWS improving clinical outcomes (e.g. earlier intervention, reduced CPA, mortality rates, transfer to PICU)
- ✓ There are positive outcomes in relation to “enhanced multi-disciplinary team work, communication and confidence in recognizing, reporting and making decisions about child clinical deterioration”
- ✓ There are also no negative outcomes reported in the literature related to the use of PEWS
- ✓ PEWS is a scoring tool and is not a substitute for clinical assessment and clinical judgement but aids in identifying risk of deterioration
- ✓ Trending of all vital signs along with the PEWS score will help identify risk of deterioration
- ✓ Visual trending aids in recognizing deterioration along with any response to treatment
- ✓ Promotes consistent assessment of capillary refill time (indicator of perfusion and cardiac output)
- ✓ Consider the environment: extra stimulation and handling can cause an increase in some vital signs
- ✓ In the ED, apply first at triage and then with all subsequent assessments (frequency will vary with patient condition, orders and site protocols)
- ✓ Is able to be used for all patients regardless of acuity/CTAS (do not delay treatment to do a score)

Evidence Results

Health providers report **high levels of change in knowledge and confidence** in caring for pediatric patients; overall, the team felt PEWS added value to pediatric patient care