

The Irish Paediatric Early Warning System

Top Tips for Safe Use

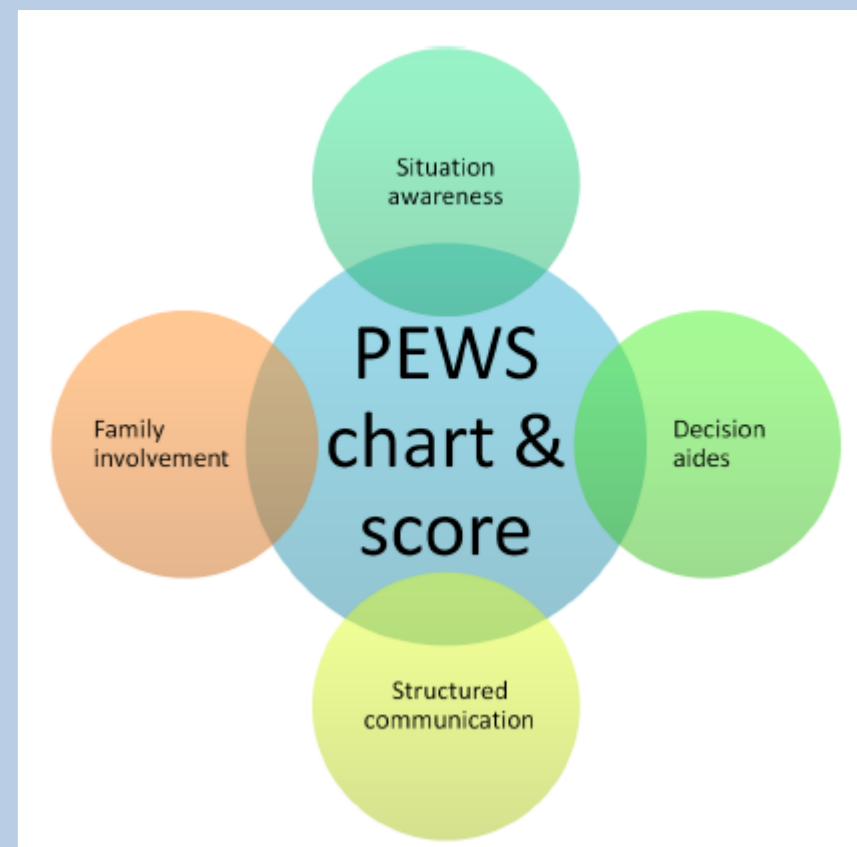
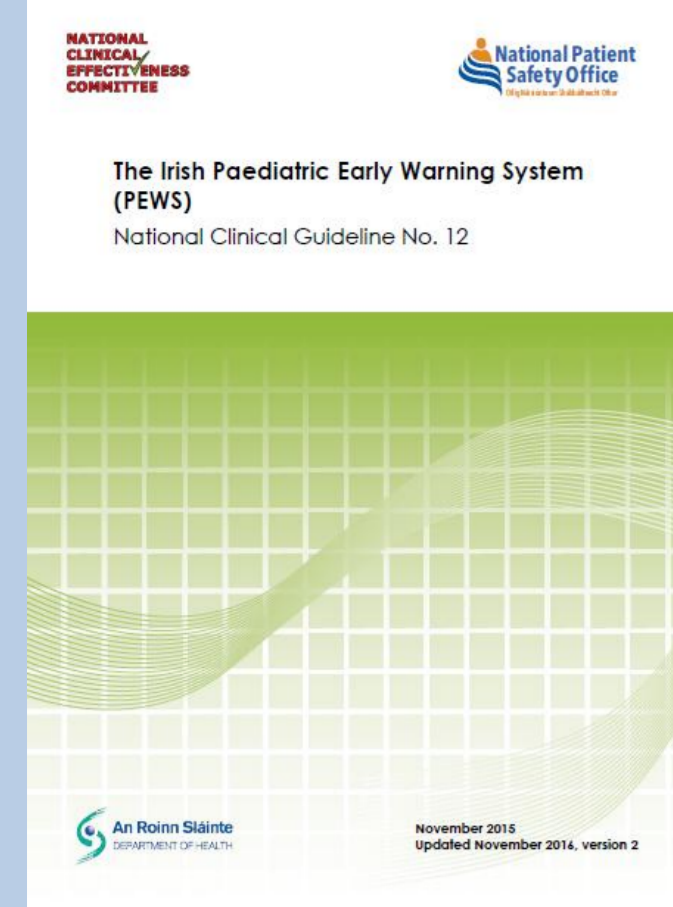
MacDonell R¹ Fitzsimons J² Horkan S³ Lambert V⁴

¹National PEWS Coordinator, HSE

²Clinical Director Quality Improvement HSE & Chair Irish PEWS Steering Group

³NCPN, HSE Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division

⁴School of Nursing and Human Sciences, Dublin City University



PEWS is designed to capture, highlight and combine clinical observations into a score that helps predict children at risk of deterioration.

In order to utilise this important clinical information, clinical judgement must be applied to interpret it.

Here we present key premises to ensure PEWS is used and interpreted safely to prevent child clinical deterioration.

What is PEWS?



Paediatric EARLY Warning System

- Any score is an abnormal score
- Improved situation awareness
- Earlier opportunity to rescue



Use clinical judgement

- Treat the child, not the score
- Monitor trends in vital signs and PEWS scoring



Engage with the child and family

- Parents/carers know their child best
- Use **Listening to You** resources
- Ask about concern



Variance Use

- Engage with the child and family
- Document all decisions clearly
- Escalate concerns quickly
- Monitor closely for safe use



Escalation Pathway

- Clinical judgement + PEWS score
- Escalation higher or lower as required
- Seek senior colleague advice
- Record decisions



More information: www.hse.ie/pews

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR: rachel.macdonell@hse.ie

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: PEWS Steering & Guideline Development Groups, NCEC



Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division