### Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS)

## Tips for staff completing the PEWS concern assessment

### Give at admission or first available opportunity

- Verbal information & access to *Listening to You* information

### Ask at observations or communication opportunities

- Does your child seem different to their normal self?
- Is it something you can see or feel?
- Is it something that your child is doing/not doing?
- Has it changed from earlier?

### Listen for cues of concern (different from parent anxiety)

- Not really feeding
- This isn’t normal
- Out of sorts
- Not right
- Breathes harder
- Very unsettled
- Not happy
- Feels hot
- Crying a lot
- Worried about my child
- I am so worried
- Can’t quite put my finger on it
- Not really him, normally he is...
- Not happy: ‘Is this normal?’
- Not the way they usually are
- Not settled
- Not right
- Not themselves
- I’m not happy with her because
- Off form
- Paler than usual

### Do

- Stop and listen
- Check your Understanding of concern
- Narrate what you are doing and why

### Key points:

- If you have clinical concern, escalate care
- **TREAT THE CHILD, NOT THE SCORE**