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Canada

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SIGNS: Recognizing Deteriorating Patient Condition in Babies, Infants, Children and Adolescents

What parents and caregivers need to know



About Healthcare Excellence Canada

Healthcare Excellence Canada (HEC) works with partners to spread innovation, build capability, and catalyze policy change so that everyone in Canada has safe and high-quality healthcare. Through collaboration with patients, caregivers and people working in healthcare, we turn proven innovations into lasting improvements in all dimensions of healthcare excellence. Launched in 2021, HEC brings together the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement. HEC is an independent, not-for-profit charity funded primarily by Health Canada. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of Health Canada.



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Recognizing Deteriorating Patient Condition in Babies, Infants, Children and Adolescents Communications Toolkit

Introduction

Thank you for helping share the message about the [Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner \(SIGNS\)-for-Kids](#) resource.

Early warning signs of deteriorating conditions are often unrecognized, which can lead to devastating results. As a healthcare provider or leader, it's important to understand the valuable role family and caregivers – known as essential care partners play in recognizing clinical deterioration and helping them to identify this deterioration in their babies, infants, children and adolescents.

Empower your patients with the SIGNS resource - it was created by an expert panel of healthcare providers and parents from many disciplines as a public health tool to help parents and caregivers identify and articulate the manifestations of severe illness requiring urgent medical attention in children.

Please use this Communications Toolkit containing key messages, posts to share on social media, and a story for newsletters to spread the SIGNS resource. The more people we reach, the more we can improve the safety, care and well-being of all involved.

How to Engage

Share the Story

Newsletter Article

Use the sample article below in the next issue of your newsletter:

Recently several respiratory viruses, including a particularly virulent strain of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19, have been circulating broadly among babies, infants, children and adolescents. These and other medical complications can cause severe illnesses requiring urgent medical attention. Find out what you need to know about recognizing severe illness with the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids resource. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/3Il4mP3>

Email Template

Use the sample email below to share with partners, stakeholders, etc.:

[Greeting],

Recently several respiratory viruses, including a particularly virulent strain of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19, have been circulating broadly among babies, infants, children and adolescents. These and other medical complications can cause severe illness requiring urgent medical attention.

An expert panel of healthcare providers from many disciplines and parents created the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids as a public health tool to help caregivers identify severe illnesses in children.

To learn more about the SIGNS resource, you can visit our [website](#). Please share this resource, print it for future reference or save it to your phone. You never know when you may need it.

Thank you for helping to keep babies, infants, children and adolescents safe. Together we can increase awareness of this important resource.

Social Media Messaging

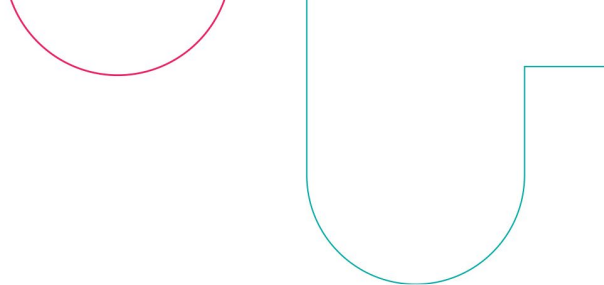
This section helps you promote the SIGNS resource using prewritten Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook posts. Follow HEC on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) to share our content and spread the word.

Twitter

- Access the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids resource to help spot severe illness in your child sooner: <http://bit.ly/3I14mP3>
- Share the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids resource, print it for future reference or save it to your phone to help identify and articulate the manifestations of severe illness in children. You never know when you may need it. <http://bit.ly/3I14mP3>

LinkedIn/Facebook

- An expert panel consisting of multi-disciplinary providers and parents created the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids as a public health tool to help parents and caregivers identify and articulate the manifestations of severe illness in children. Access the Severe Illness Getting Noticed Sooner (SIGNS)-for-Kids resource to help spot severe illness requiring urgent medical attention in your child sooner: <http://bit.ly/3I14mP3>

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- Babies, infants, children and adolescents sometimes need immediate medical assistance. Recently several respiratory viruses, including a particularly virulent strain of influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19, have been circulating broadly. These and other medical complications can cause severe illness requiring urgent medical attention. Empower yourself and your loved ones with the following resource. It can help you recognize the signs of severe illness requiring urgent medical attention. <http://bit.ly/3II4mP3>