

What does this mean for you as a parent?

Your child was admitted to a pediatric ward of a hospital participating in the study. As a result, some of the data about your child's hospitalization will be used for the research. We are only using **anonymous** data. This means that the researchers will not see your child's personal information such as a name or date of birth. None of the information can ever be traced back to you or your child.

In principle, all children who are admitted automatically participate in this study. Would you prefer for your child's data not to be used and not to participate in this research? You can inform the treatment provider (doctor or nurse), and your child's data will then not be included in the study.

Would you like more information or do you want to be interviewed?

As part of the research we would also like to know what you think of the Dutch PEWS, which is why we are looking for parents who want to participate in an interview. Your opinion is important to us. The interviews will be conducted by a member of Stichting Kind en Ziekenhuis. Stichting Kind en Ziekenhuis is the patient organization for children in medical care. The data of your participation will be used strictly anonymously. Only the researchers know your name. The collected data can never be linked to you or your child.

Would you like more information about the Dutch PEWS, the research, or do you want to be interviewed? If so, let your treatment provider know. They can provide you with additional information and answer your questions.

For more information or to contact the researchers, please visit the website of the Dutch PEWS: www.dutchpews.com

Participation in Dutch PEWS Research

Important information for parents

One system, one language for improved recognition of sick children.

You are receiving this information because your child has been admitted to a hospital that is participating in the national study on the Dutch PEWS. Please read this pamphlet carefully.



kind&ziekenhuis



What is the Dutch PEWS (Pediatric Early Warning System)?

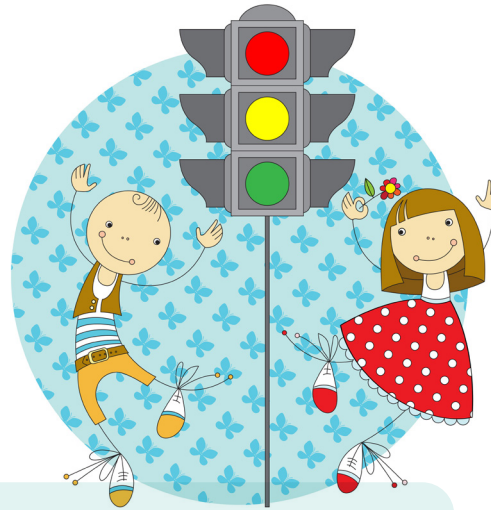
If a child has been admitted to hospital and suddenly becomes sicker, the doctor or nurse will examine what is going on. Examples include the doctor or nurse monitoring their heartbeat and breathing. These values are used to determine whether the child's condition is deteriorating during hospitalization. Ideally, any deterioration should be detected as soon as possible to allow more time for action to be taken. Systems have been developed that can detect deterioration at an earlier stage specifically for this purpose. This is called an early warning system.

The Dutch PEWS is such an **early warning system** and consists of two parts. A **base set** of important bodily functions such as heart rate and breathing. An assessment of **special circumstances** that might be affecting the child.

These circumstances include:

- **Worried parents** (the "worried sign")
- **Worried doctor or nurse** (the "worried sign")
- **High risk treatments** (such as dangerous medication or complicated surgery)

The result of the score from the base set is combined with the special circumstances that might be at play. Combined, this results in a risk category classified as green, orange, or red. Depending on the color code, the child will be watched more closely by doctors and nurses during their hospitalization. This allows them to detect whether a child is deteriorating at an earlier stage so they can take action sooner.



The "worried sign" is included in the Dutch PEWS. The "worried sign" represents the worries of parents, nurses, or doctors. This may be caused by seeing the child's condition deteriorate further, having doubts about the diagnosis, or not seeing the effects of the treatment yet.

Parents have a significant role in this because they know their child best and are well-attuned to their needs, and as such can tell what is normal and what is not. Parents' worries about the condition of their child are consequently a strong signal, which is why it is assigned an important role within the Dutch PEWS. When administering the Dutch PEWS, the nurse will also ask your opinion about the condition of your child, involving you as a parent in the measurement itself.

The Dutch PEWS Study

A very important national study has been set up to assess whether the Dutch PEWS works. This research will examine whether sick children are actually diagnosed sooner, and the other benefits that this system can provide.

For this reason, the Dutch PEWS is being reviewed in twelve Dutch hospitals. One year after the launch the system will be evaluated at different times to see if it is working properly. This is done by looking at all children who have been admitted to hospital and the PEWS scores given during their hospitalization. Through questionnaires and interviews with doctors and nurses we also look at how the Dutch PEWS works, and parents will also be interviewed about their experiences with the Dutch PEWS.

At the end of this phase, all data from all hospitals will be collected and reviewed nationwide. This provides an answer to the question of what the Dutch PEWS contributes to safety in hospitals.

