

# Life-threatening Illness in Children

## Introduction

Children can become unwell very quickly indeed and this module examines a number of common symptoms and conditions which may be life-threatening, including:

- Sepsis
- Wheezy children
- Fever and Rash
- Dehydration
- Anaphylaxis.

The module will study the diagnosis and management of these conditions in Primary Care. Where most of the management occurs in Secondary Care the management will not be discussed, though detection/diagnosis will be described, including “when to refer”.

[Expert reviewer’s comment: Children who are extremely unwell may present with subtle symptoms and signs. It can be difficult to determine whether a child is extremely unwell, and the carers’ concerns are often very important.]

There are already modules which study fever in children (module entitled Paediatric Short Cases) and anaphylaxis (module entitled Allergy). The authors have attempted to avoid repeating information from these modules, except where this was unavoidable and relevant to life-threatening illness.