

Guideline for Management of

Asymptomatic Infants Born at ≥ 35

weeks Gestation at Risk of EarlyOnset Sepsis: Using the Sepsis

Risk Calculator





Clinical Guideline	Clinical Practice Guideline
Name	
Effective Date	June 1, 2022
Approved By	Department of Pediatric Newborn Medicine Clinical Practice  Council CWN PPG BWH SPP Steering Nurse Executive Board/CNO DUE FOR REVIEW June 2025

- **I. Purpose:** To provide an updated guideline for the evaluation and treatment of asymptomatic newborns >/= 35 weeks gestation using the Neonatal Sepsis Risk Calculator.
- **II.** All CPGs will relay on the <u>NICU Nursing Standards of Care</u>. All relevant nursing PPGs are listed below.
  - -CLB I.2 Care of the Newborn Infant in the Center for Labor and Birth https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3168/active/
  - -NICU/SCN B.1 Arterial and Venous Blood Drawing https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3191/active/
  - NICU/SCN I.2 Intravenous Angiocatheter Placement <a href="https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3210/active/">https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3210/active/</a>
  - -WNH I.2 Care of the Term Infant https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3286/active/
  - -WNH I.6 Care of the Late Preterm Infant and Infant less than 2500 grams <a href="https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3289/active/">https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3289/active/</a>
  - -WNH M.1 Administration of medications to Infants



https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3292/active/

### -WNH T.4 Infant Transport

https://hospitalpolicies.ellucid.com/documents/view/3317/active/

-Rapid Response CPG contains how to contact DR 1/NICU triage RN.

https://www.bwhpikenotes.org/Departments\_Centers/NewbornMedicine\_NICU/docu\_ments/RRS.CPG.12.10.18\_FINAL.pdf

### III. Scope

- a. Indication: These guidelines apply to all **asymptomatic** infants born at a gestational age >/= 35 weeks at Brigham & Women's Hospital
- b. Contraindications to using the calculator
  - i. GA < 35 weeks
  - ii. Symptomatic or ill-appearing infants
    - 1. Respiratory:
      - a. Respiratory rate persistently <30 or >70.
      - b. Oxygen saturation <95% in room air.
      - c. Dusky spell(s).
      - d. Apnea/bradycardia.
      - e. Respiratory distress (grunting, flaring, retractions).
    - 2. Neurologic:
      - a. Seizures or seizure like activity.
      - b. Lethargy/hypotonia/floppiness.
      - c. New/unexplained focal weakness.
    - 3. Cardiovascular:
      - a. Heart rate (HR) persistently <75 or >210.
    - 4. Other:
      - a. Diffuse petechiae/vesicular eruptions.
      - b. Unexplained pain, e.g., irritable persistent cry.
- IV. Guidelines: Kaiser Newborn Sepsis Risk Calculator Overview
  - a. An online tool which utilizes a multivariate risk prediction model to calculate the probability of early onset sepsis (EOS) in well-appearing newborns >/= 35 weeks gestation. <a href="https://neonatalsepsiscalculator.kaiserpermanente.org/">https://neonatalsepsiscalculator.kaiserpermanente.org/</a>
  - b. Definition of well-appearing, equivocal vs. ill-appearing on Kaiser Calculator



### Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator

Home Classification References

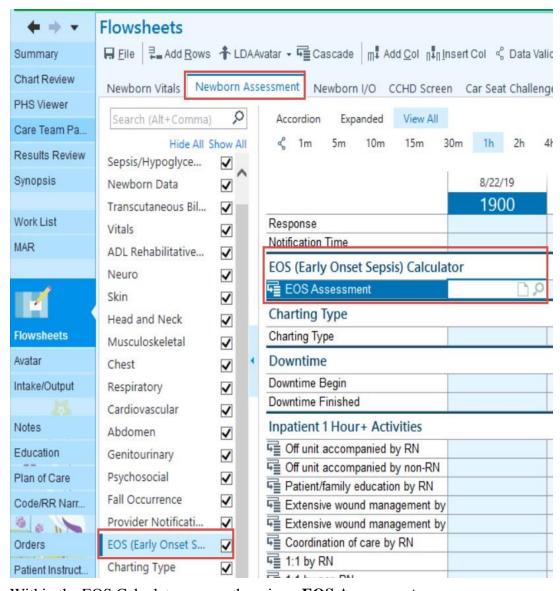
Clinical Exam	Description
Clinical Illness	Persistent need for NCPAP / HFNC / mechanical ventilation (outside of the delivery room)
	Hemodynamic instability requiring vasoactive drugs
	Neonatal encephalopathy /Perinatal depression     Seizure
	Apgar Score @ 5 minutes < 5
	Apgar Score @ 5 minutes < 5     Need for supplemental O <sub>2</sub> > 2 hours to maintain oxygen saturations > 90% (outside of the delivery room)
	4. Need for supplemental $O_2 \ge 2$ flours to maintain oxygen saturations > 90 % (outside of the delivery floority
Equivocal	<ol> <li>Persistent physiologic abnormality ≥ 4 hrs</li> </ol>
	<ul> <li>Tachycardia (HR ≥ 160)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Tachypnea (RR ≥ 60)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Temperature instability (≥ 100.4°F or &lt; 97.5°F)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Respiratory distress (grunting, flaring, or retracting) not requiring supplemental O<sub>2</sub></li> </ul>
	<ol> <li>Two or more physiologic abnormalities lasting for ≥ 2 hrs</li> </ol>
	<ul> <li>Tachycardia (HR ≥ 160)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Tachypnea (RR ≥ 60)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Temperature instability (≥ 100.4°F or &lt; 97.5°F)</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Respiratory distress (grunting, flaring, or retracting) not requiring supplemental O<sub>2</sub></li> </ul>
	Note: abnormality can be intermittent
Well Appearing	No persistent physiologic abnormalities

- c. <u>ALL</u> infants born at Brigham & Women's Hospital with a gestational age >/= 35
   0/7 weeks will have the Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis Calculator performed by Labor and Delivery RN.
- d. Infants with the following the following criteria are at higher risk of having an elevated EOS score.
  - i. Any infant with a gestational age between  $35\ 0/7 36\ 6/7$  weeks must have sepsis risk score performed regardless of presence or absence of any other risk criteria as listed in ii vii.
  - ii. PROM > /= 18 hours
  - iii. Significant maternal fever (>/= 100.4) or intrauterine infection as determined by Obstetrical Providers
  - iv. Maternal GBS positive status and inadequate intrapartum antibiotics
    - 1. ADEQUATE GBS PROPHYLAXIS: Penicillin G, ampicillin, or cefazolin given >/= 4 hours prior to delivery
    - 2. INADEQUATE GBS PROPHYLAXIS: any antibiotic given < 4 hours prior to delivery <u>OR</u> any other antibiotic for any duration (e.g., vancomycin, clindamycin) regardless of sensitivities



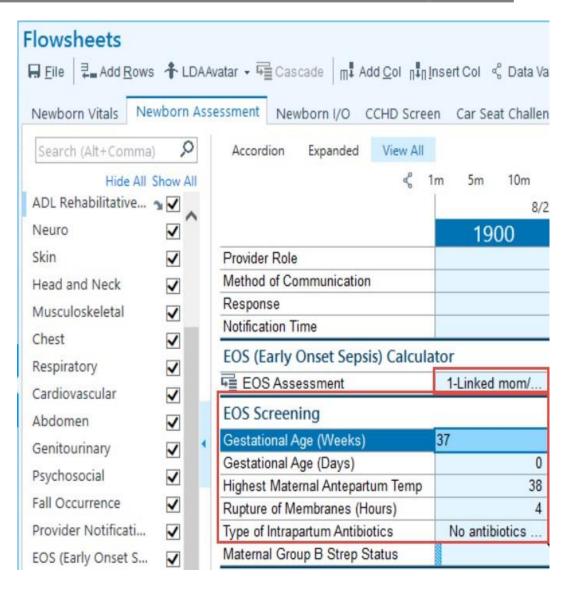
- v. GBS unknown
- vi. Maternal fever within one hour of delivery
- vii. ADDITIONAL NOTES:
  - 1. Maternal fever that occurs within one hour of delivery should be treated like intrapartum fever and the infant should be evaluated via the sepsis risk calculator.
  - 2. Women with a previous infant with GBS disease should receive intrapartum GBS prophylaxis.
  - 3. Blood cultures should be obtained per unit protocol.
  - 4. To facilitate family bonding and initiation of breastfeeding, the sepsis evaluation (if indicated by the calculator) can be delayed for up to one hour after birth, at the discretion of the obstetrical and neonatal caregivers.
- e. Personnel: Sepsis Calculator screening will primarily be performed by L&D nursing staff; however, NICU staff and/or WBN staff may also run calculator if needed.
- f. Baseline Incidence of EOS:
  - i. BWH-specific for January 2018 November 2018: 1 positive blood culture in 6533 live births for a rate of 0.153 per 1000 live births
  - ii. CDC reports a national incidence of 0.5 per 1000 live births
  - iii. Conservative approach  $\rightarrow$  Use CDC estimate (0.5 per 1000 live births)
- II. How to Use the Neonatal Sepsis Risk Calculator (SEE PAGES 15 25: EPIC TIP SHEET)
  - a. **NURSING:** Calculator
    - i. Access EOS (Early Onset Sepsis) Calculator from the Newborn or NICU Assessment Flowsheets





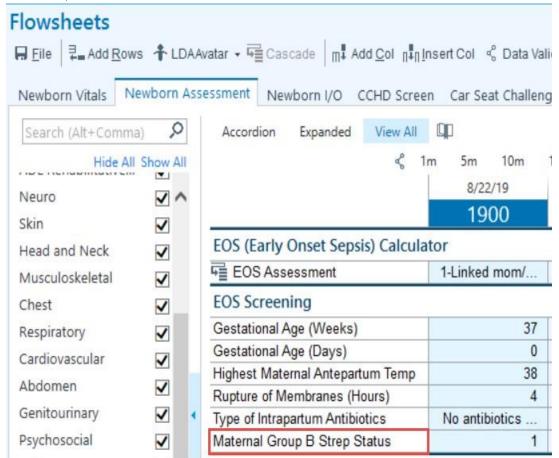
- ii. Within the EOS Calculator group, there is an EOS Assessment row
  - 1. 2 options: Linked mom/Pull data or Manual override
  - 2. Use **Linked Mom/Pull Data** (only in rare situations will manual override be indicated)
- iii. Within the EOS Screening, the Gestational age (in weeks), highest maternal antepartum temperature (in Centigrade), Rupture of Membranes (in hours, always rounded UP − e.g., if ROM occurred for 6 hours, 3 minutes → EMR rounds to 7 hours), and type of Intrapartum Antibiotics **automatically** files into chart. Of note, for incidence of EOS, the CDC risk of 0.5/1000 live births is the automatic default.







iv. Maternal GBS status must be **MANUALLY** entered (positive, negative, unknown).

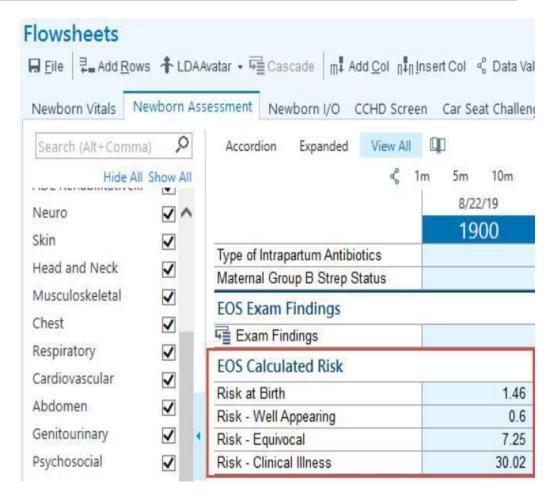




1				
Sel	lect Single Option: (F5)			
0=	-Unknown			
1=	-Positive			
2=	-Negative			
Co	omment (F6)			
	Flowsneet/Delivery Summary):	Ĭ		
	Maternal GBS Status	Recent Labs		
	(from Mom labs):		08/15/19	
		GBS GROUP B STREP ANTIGEN EXTERNAL	Pos	
	General Intrapartum Antibiotic Guidelines:	Broad Spectru ampicillin and		

v. Once all rows have documentation/been completed, the EOS score will populate within the **EOS Calculated Risk** section.





- vi. If the baseline "EOS risk @ birth" is < 0.7 and infant is well-appearing, then the following is to occur.
  - 1. Infant to receive q4 hr vital signs for a minimum of the first 24 hrs of life.
  - 2. Nursing assessments per protocol
  - 3. Physician assessments per protocol
- vii. If the baseline "EOS risk @ birth" is >/= 0.7, notify DR1.
- viii. The newborn must have an exam performed by 1 hour of age. This exam may occur in the delivery room, so as to not separate the mother/newborn dvad.
- ix. DR1 in conjunction with an attending, fellow, or APP team member will examine infant to determine the further classification of infant's clinical presentation: well- appearing, equivocal, or clinical illness



- x. If it is determined that the infant with "EOS risk at birth" >/= 0.7 is well-appearing, then:
  - 1. Follow clinical suggestions of calculator
  - 2. Vitals per NB policy should be followed (q4 hrs x 24 hrs as a minimum)
  - **3.** Nursing assessments per protocol
  - 4. Physician assessments per protocol
- xi. If it is determined that the infant with EOS risk at birth >/= 0.7 is equivocal-appearing, infant will be brought to NICU triage for monitoring and assessment or admitted to NICU as deemed clinically indicated. Automatic sepsis evaluation is not immediately mandated. Observation and assessment over time is needed to determine if findings on clinical exam are secondary to issues unrelated to sepsis (e.g., TTN)
- xii. If it is determined that infant with EOS risk at birth >/= 0.7 is clinically illappearing, immediate admission to the NICU is indicated. Antibiotics should be strongly considered in this case.
- xiii. In the scenario of a maternal fever within one hour of delivery with a well-appearing infant, LDR will re-calculate score on EOS calculator.
- b. PROVIDER: Calculator
  - i. Open Admission Navigator → click on EOS (Early Onset Sepsis) calculator section.
  - ii. There is an EOS Assessment row
    - 1. 2 options: Linked mom/Pull data or Manual override
    - 2. Use **Linked Mom/Pull Data** (only in rare situations will manual override be indicated)
  - iii. Within the EOS Screening, the Gestational age (in weeks), highest maternal antepartum temperature (in Centigrade), Rupture of Membranes (in hours, always rounded UP e.g., if ROM occurred for 6 hours, 3



- minutes  $\rightarrow$  EMR rounds to 7 hours), and type of Intrapartum Antibiotics **automatically** files into chart. Of note, for incidence of EOS, the CDC risk of 0.5/1000 live births is the automatic default.
- iv. Maternal GBS status must be **MANUALLY** entered (positive, negative, unknown).
- v. Once all rows have documentation/been completed, open the Sidebar and search for Early Onset Sepsis Sidebar.
- vi. This report shows an EOS chart that pulls in data for clinical review.
- vii. In **Exam Findings**, enter **well-appearing**. Then **close** the Navigator section. (If patient is equivocal or ill-appearing, infant should be brought to NICU triage for further monitoring and evaluation).
- viii. The EOS risk score will be calculated and displayed.
- ix. If the baseline "EOS risk @ birth" is < 0.7 and infant is well-appearing, then the following is to occur.
  - 1. Infant to receive q4 hr vital signs for a minimum of the first 24 hrs of life.
  - 2. Nursing assessments per protocol
  - 3. Physician assessments per protocol
- x. If the baseline "EOS risk @ birth" is >/= 0.7, newborn exam must be performed and documented.
- xi. Initial exam may be performed in the delivery room.
- xii. DR1 in conjunction with an attending, fellow, or APP team member will examine infant to determine the further classification of infant's clinical presentation: well- appearing, equivocal, or clinical illness
- xiii. If it is determined that the infant with "EOS risk at birth" >/= 0.7 is well-appearing, then:
  - 1. Follow clinical suggestions of calculator
  - 2. Vitals per NB policy should be followed (q4 hrs x 24 hrs as a minimum)
  - 3. Nursing assessments per protocol
  - 4. Physician assessments per protocol
- xiv. If it is determined the infant with EOS risk at birth >/= 0.7 is equivocal-appearing, infant will be brought to NICU triage for monitoring and assessment or admitted to NICU as clinically indicated.



- Automatic sepsis evaluation is not immediately mandated. Observation and assessment over time is needed to determine if findings on clinical exam are secondary to issues unrelated to sepsis (e.g., TTN)
- xv. If it is determined that infant with EOS risk at birth >/= 0.7 is clinically illappearing, immediate admission to the NICU is indicated. Antibiotics should be strongly considered in this case.

### III. Documentation

- a. The EOS score is automatically populated into the flowsheet.
- b. If score >/= 0.7, L&D nursing should document DR1 was notified.
- c. If score >/= 0.7 and infant is well-appearing, initial NB exam needs to be documented in EMR by MD/NNP/PA via a progress note.
- d. If score is >/= 0.7 and newborn's clinical status is equivocal or ill-appearing, standard Triage or NICU documentation is indicated.
- IV. Antibiotic Usage: <u>If</u> it is determined a newborn will receive antibiotics STAT, ampicillin and gentamicin will be ordered by NICU LIP. Please refer to NICU DAG for administration guidelines.
  - a. Ampicillin:
    <a href="http://www.bwhpikenotes.org/Departments\_Centers/NewbornMedicine\_NICU/documents/Ampicillin.pdf">http://www.bwhpikenotes.org/Departments\_Centers/NewbornMedicine\_NICU/documents/Ampicillin.pdf</a>
  - b. Gentamicin:
    <a href="http://www.bwhpikenotes.org/Departments\_Centers/NewbornMedicine\_NICU/documents/Gentamicin.pdf">http://www.bwhpikenotes.org/Departments\_Centers/NewbornMedicine\_NICU/documents/Gentamicin.pdf</a>
- V. Communication: DR1 will communicate all evaluations for infants with EOS >/= 0.7
- VI. Reasoning for Utilization of the Neonatal Sepsis Risk Calculator: Reduction in Antibiotics Usage in Well-Appearing Newborns >/= 35 weeks gestation.
  - a. Past BWH data  $\rightarrow$  2008/2009 BWH treated 8% of well-appearing infants >/=34 weeks gestation with antibiotics, while the incidence of EOS in those cases was 0.4/1000 live births.



- b. BWH January 2018 November 2018, 8.3% of well-appearing babies >/= 35 weeks gestation were treated with antibiotics. The incidence of EOS in these cases was 0.153/1000 live births.
- c. Early antibiotic exposure in neonates (even 48 hours) has been associated with:
  - i. Increased asthma
  - ii. Allergic/autoimmune disease (IBD, arthritis, and multiple sclerosis)
  - iii. Obesity
  - iv. Neurodevelopmental sequelae (in mice models, longer antibiotic exposure increased aggression behaviors as well as impaired anxiety and social behaviors)



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- Benitz WE, Wynn JL, Polin RA. Reappraisal of Guidelines for Management of Neonates with Suspected Early-Onset Sepsis. *JPediatr* 2016;166:1070-1074.
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- Schulfer A, Blaser M. Risks of Antibiotic Exposures Early in Life on the Developing Microbome. *PLoS Pathog* 11(7):e1004903.
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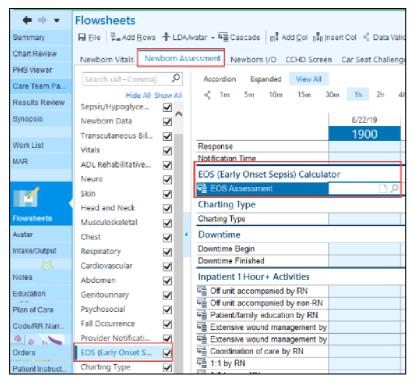
Partners eCare TIP SHEET

### Neonatal Early-Onset Sepsis (EOS)

This tip sheet is for clinicians using the Early-Onset Sepsis workflow in Epic.

### EOS Assessment and Screening

The nurse can complete EOS documentation from the Newborn and NICU Assessment Flowsheets.



#### **EOS Assessment**

Within the EOS (Early Onset Sepsis) Calculator group, there is an EOS Assessment row.

- 1. Document either Linked mom/Pull data or Manual override.
  - NOTE: You will likely always use Linked Mom/Pull data and only in rare situations use Manual override if
- 2. After documenting Linked mom/Pull data, the EOS Screening and EOS Override Screening groups cascade into the flowsheet.

#### EOS Screening

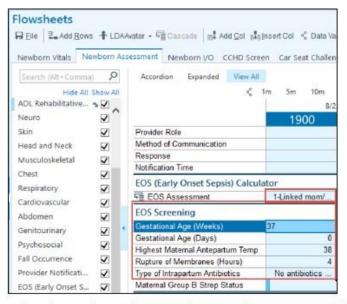
1. Within the EOS Screening group, Gestational Age (Weeks), Highest Maternal Antepartum Temp, Rupture of Membranes (Hours), and Type of Intrapartum Antibiotics automatically file from the patient's chart:

Last Updated: 9/9/2019 Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians Page 1 of 11

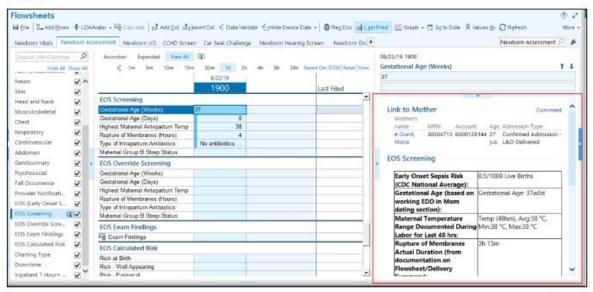
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Partners eCare TIP SHEET



Within the Details Pane, the Row Information shows an EOS Grid that pulls in info for the clinician to review:



### Keep in Mind...

- The GA is pulled from the Working EDD within the mother's Dating section.
- The Highest Maternal Antepartum Temp will pull the highest temperature up to 1-hour post birth. It
  will file in Celsius.
- Rupture of Membranes will round up to the nearest hour (Ex: Screenshot above: Actual ROM from details pane shows 1 hour 43 mins but flowsheet row rounds to 2).
- · Antibiotics are pulled from mom's MAR and looks at type, time given and birth time.

Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians

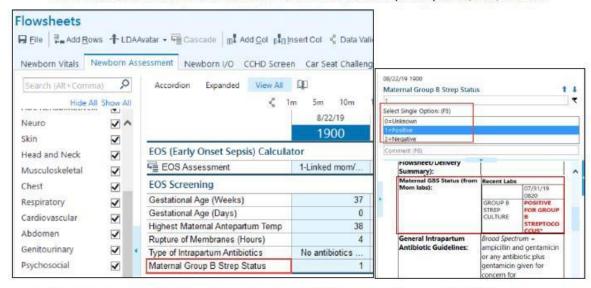
Last Updated: 9/9/2019



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 The only field that does not populate is the Maternal Group B Strep Status. Manually document the Maternal Group B Strep Status.

NOTE: The GBS section of the EOS Grid shows the last lab resulted Group B Strep result, date, and time:



4. Once all rows have documentation, the scores are populated within the EOS Calculated Risk group:



NOTE: These scores do Not file to the Grease Board view column. The Grease Board view is populated based on the Actual Risk and EOS Exam Findings.

#### **EOS Override Screening**

 If you need to override a value after all rows are documented, document the value in the EOS Override Screening group:

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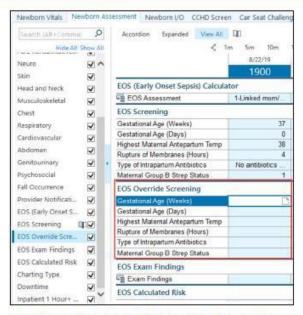
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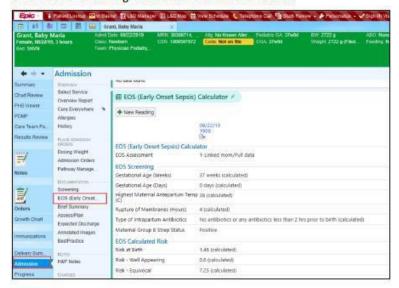
2. The EOS Calculated Risk will then update based on the override screening.

NOTE: You will need to document all values, including override, within a singular time column on the flowsheet for the Calculated Risk scores to populate.

### **EOS Exam Findings and Actual Risk**

NOTE: If the nurse documents EOS exam findings at your hospital, skip this section and Go to page 8: "Per Policy...Exam Findings (Nurse)."

 The Provider can open the Admission navigator> EOS (Early Onset Sepsis) Calculator section to document exam findings and view calculated Actual Risk.



Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians

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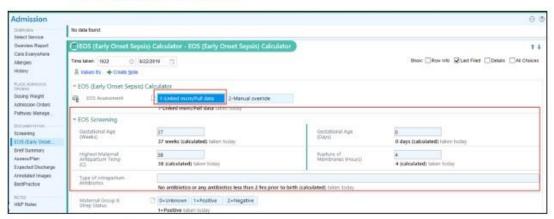
TIP SHEET

NOTE: All rows need to have documentation in order to calculate Actual Risk.

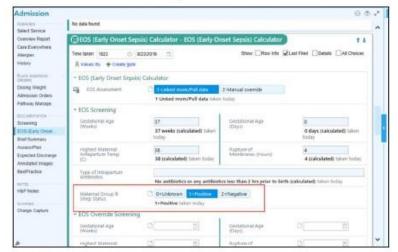
Click to open the Section. Verify Last Filed is selected to view nurse's previous documentation.



- 3. Click Linked mom/Pull data (or rarely, Manual override if necessary).
  - Notice values for GA, Highest Maternal Temp, and Rupture of Membranes pull in automatically based off documentation in chart.



- 4. Document Maternal Group B Strep Status.
  - a. Hint: can use nurse's previous documentation.



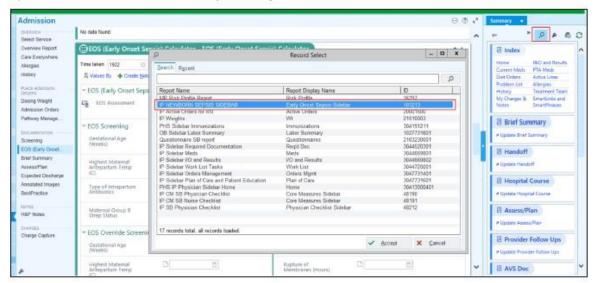
Enter any Override values, if necessary.

Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians Last Updated: 9/9/2019

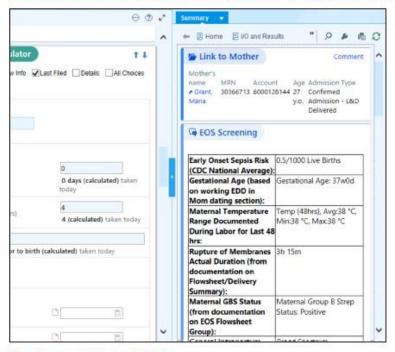


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6. Open the Sidebar and Search for the Early Onset Sepsis Sidebar:



7. This report shows an EOS Grid that pulls in patient info for the clinician to review:



#### Exam Findings and Actual Risk

1. In the Exam Findings section, enter Well Appearing, Equivocal or Clinical Illness:



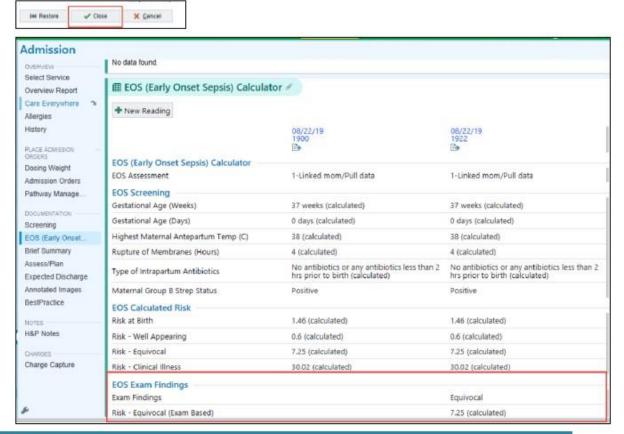
Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians

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2. Close the navigator section. The Actual Risk based on Exam is calculated.



#### You Can Also...

Use the Flowsheets link within the Report view to document on the EOS flowsheet.

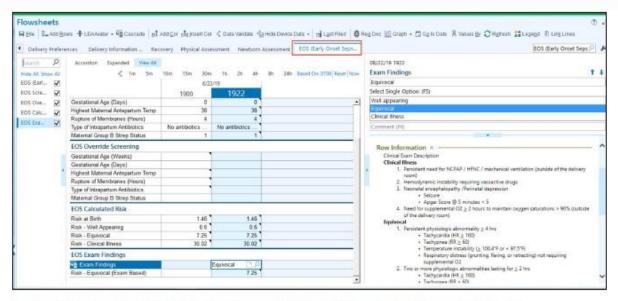
1. With the navigator section closed, click the Flowsheets link:



- 2. This opens the EOS (Early Onset Sepsis) Calculator Flowsheet.
- Here you can document Linked Mom/Pull Data, enter Maternal Group B Strep Status, and EOS Exam Findings. Click File to view calculations.



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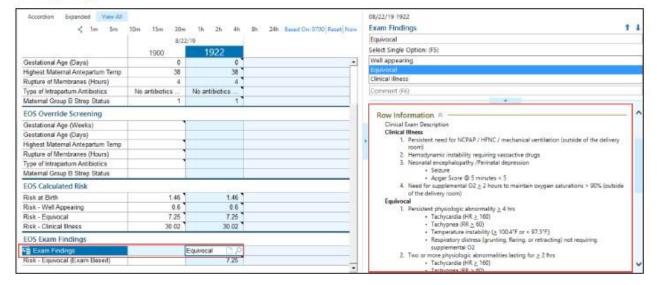
4. Use the back arrow under the Patient Header to go back to the Admission Navigator, if necessary:



#### Per Policy...Exam Findings (Nurse)

If it is site policy that a nurse document exam findings, the nurse can use the EOS Exam Findings group within the Flowsheets.

NOTE: The Details Pane>Row Information will show descriptions for the terms, Clinical Illness, Equivocal, and Well appearing.





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TIP SHEET

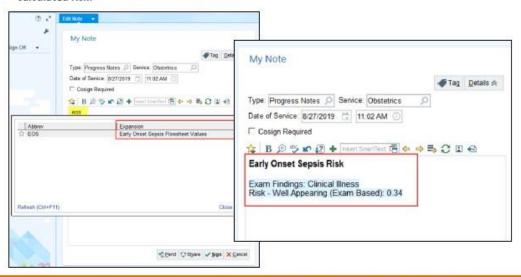
#### L&D Grease Board

This Exam based Finding and Risk score populate the Exam Finding/Risk Score column of the Grease Board views:



#### Smartlink

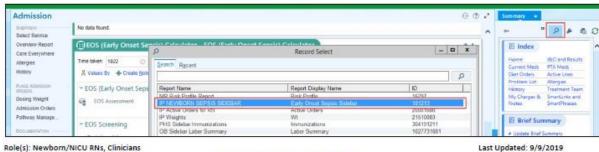
1. Use .eos within any note to pull in the Neonatal Sepsis Onset Findings: Exam findings and Exam calculated risk:



### Early Onset Sepsis Report and Clinical Recommendations

The Early Onset Sepsis Sidebar (IP NEWBORN SEPSIS SIDEBAR) report will show Calculated Risks and Recommendations in red, orange, and white.

1. Search for the Early Onset Sepsis Sidebar using the selection tool of the sidebar HINT: Search using the word "sepsis" to make it easier to find.



Last Updated: 9/9/2019

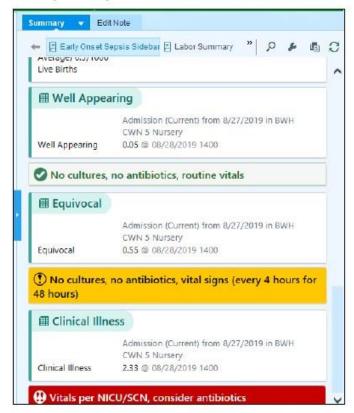
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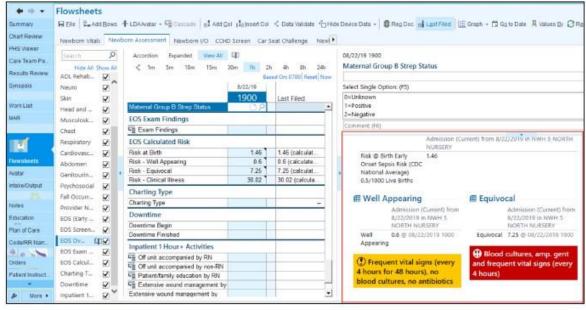


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2. The Early Onset Sepsis Sidebar shows calculated risks and color-coded recommendations:



3. Nurses can also view this information from within the Details Report Pane within the Flowsheet group.



Role(s): Newborn/NICU RNs, Clinicians

Last Updated: 9/9/2019



### Partners eCare TIP SHEET

### Newborn Summary and Newborn Patient Story

 The EOS Screening results can also be found within the Newborn Summary and Newborn/NICU Patient Story reports:

