



HANDOUT

Identifying chest in-drawing

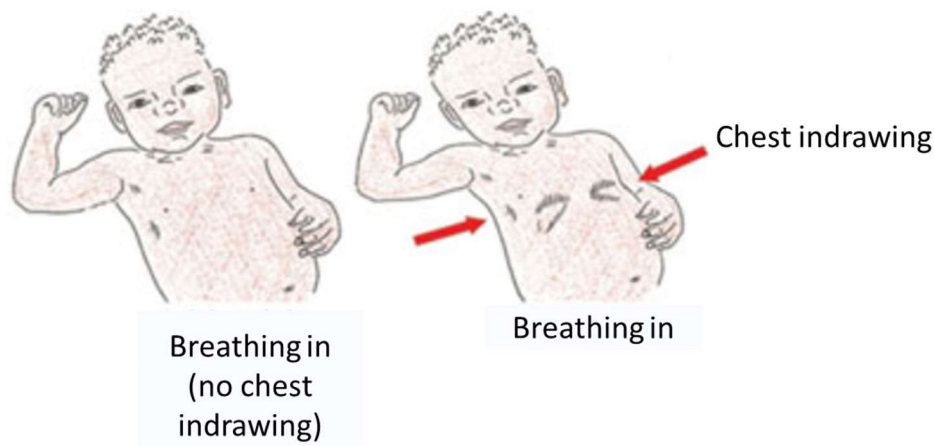
Sometimes a child with cough might have pneumonia, which is an infection of the lungs. When pneumonia is severe, the lungs become very stiff. Breathing with very stiff lungs causes **chest in-drawing**. The chest works hard to pull in the air, and breathing can be difficult. Children with severe pneumonia must be referred to a health facility.

You identify **severe pneumonia** by looking for **chest in-drawing**. When you look for chest in-drawing, make sure:

- The child is calm
- The child is not being breastfed or bottle fed
- If the child is asleep, try not to wake the child

1. Ask the caregiver to raise the child's clothing above the chest. Look at the lower chest wall (lower ribs).
2. Look for chest in-drawing when the child breathes IN. Normally when a child breathes IN, the chest and stomach move out together. In a child with chest in-drawing, however, the chest below the ribs pulls in instead of moving out; the air does not come in and the chest is not filling with air.

In the picture below, the child on the right has chest in-drawing. See the lines on the chest as the child on the right breathes in. The chest below the ribs pulls in instead of moving out. The child has chest in-drawing if the **lower chest wall goes IN when the child breathes IN**.



Chest in-drawing is not visible when the child breathes OUT.

For chest in-drawing to be present, it must be clearly visible and present at every breathing in. If you see chest in-drawing only when the child is crying or feeding, the child does not have chest in-drawing.