

### **5.3 Medically unwell children**

Medically unwell children are vulnerable to the effects of procedural pain as they may experience an increase in medical procedures in conjunction with decreased physiological reserves. Remember to:

- Ensure all medical procedures are necessary medical procedures
- Cluster necessary medical procedures where possible
- If a child is too unwell to leave their room, create a “safe place” by providing procedure free periods
- Children may become withdrawn when unwell and have reduced capacity for communicating procedural distress. Do not presume a quiet child is coping well with medical procedures.