

Cough/breathlessness pathway for children ≥ 1 of year of age

Clinical Assessment/Management tool for Children



Primary and Community Care Settings

CLINICAL FIND-INGS	GREEN LOW RISK	AMBER MEDIUM RISK	RED HIGH RISK															
Respiratory	None of amber or red symptoms	- Tachypnoea<table><tr><th>Age</th><th>Age</th><th>Age</th><th>Age</th><th>Age</th></tr><tr><th>0-11 months</th><th>12-23 months</th><th>2 - 5 years</th><th>5 - 12 years</th><th>> 12 years</th></tr><tr><td>RR 50 - 70 breaths/min</td><td>RR >40 breaths/min</td><td>RR >35 breaths/min</td><td>RR >30 breaths/min</td><td>RR > 25 breaths/min</td></tr></table> - Mild / Moderate respiratory distress - Audible stridor on exertion/distress only	Age	Age	Age	Age	Age	0-11 months	12-23 months	2 - 5 years	5 - 12 years	> 12 years	RR 50 - 70 breaths/min	RR >40 breaths/min	RR >35 breaths/min	RR >30 breaths/min	RR > 25 breaths/min	- Grunting - Audible stridor at rest - Severe tachypnoea: RR > 10 breaths per minute above amber levels - Severe respiratory distress - Unable to complete sentences
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0-11 months	12-23 months	2 - 5 years	5 - 12 years	> 12 years														
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Circulation and Hydration	- None of amber or red symptoms - Able to tolerate some fluids - Passing urine	- Cold hands and feet in absence of fever - Reduced urine output - Not tolerating fluids / repeated vomiting - Unable to swallow saliva																
Colour and Activity	- Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue - Content/smiles - Stays awake/awakens quickly	- Pale - Decreased activity/lethargic - No smile	- Blue or grey colour - No response - Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake - Confused - Clinical concerns about nature of cry (weak, high pitched or continuous)															
Other symptoms, and signs	None of amber or red symptoms	- Fever for ≥ 5 days - Risk factors for severe disease – known asthma, chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis/CF, immunodeficiency - Additional parental/carer support required	Sudden onset and parental concern about inhaled foreign body															
	GREEN ACTION	AMBER ACTION	RED ACTION															
	- Provide cough/breathlessness >1 year safety netting advice - Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given. - Always consider safeguarding issues	Consider remote consultation and/or refer to primary care service for review	Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc.															