Cough/breathlessness in child <1 year of age





Clinical support tool for community pharmacists

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour Activity	 Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or wakens quickly Strong normal cry / not crying 	Pallor Reduced response to social cues Wakes only after prolonged stimulation	Blue or grey colour Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Clinical concerns about nature of cry (Weak, high pitched or continuous)
Respiratory	None of amber or red symptoms	RR 50-70 breaths/min Mild / moderate respiratory distress Audible stridor only when distressed	 Grunting RR > 70 breaths/min Severe respiratory distress Pauses in breathing (apnoeas) Audible stridor at rest
Circulation / hydration	None of amber or red symptoms	Cold hands and feet in absence of fever Reduced urine output Reduced fluid intake: 50-75% of usual intake over previous 3-4 feeds	Markedly reduced fluid intake: <50% of usual intake over last 2-3 feeds
Other	None of amber or red symptoms	 Risk factors for severe illness: pre-existing lung condition, congenital heart disease, age <6 weeks (Corrected), prematurity <35 weeks, known immunodeficiency Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) Fever for ≥ 5 days Additional parental/carer support required Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities 	 Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F) Seizure



Green Action

Provide cough/breathlessness in children under 1 year safety netting advice

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given

Always consider safeguarding issues.



Amber Action

Refer to primary care for review



Red Action

Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc.

CS50218