Cough/breathlessness pathway for children ≥ 1 year of age





Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour Activity	 Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue Content/smiles Stays awake/awakens quickly 	Pale No smile Decreased activity/lethargic	 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)
Respiratory	None of amber or red symptoms	 RR >40 breaths/min if age 12 months - 23 months RR >35 breaths/min if age 2-5 years RR >30 breaths/min if age 5 -12 years RR >25 breaths/min if age >12 years Mild / Moderate resp distress Audible stridor on exertion/distress only 	 Grunting Audible stridor at rest Severe tachypnoea: RR > 10 breaths per minute above amber levels Severe respiratory distress Unable to complete sentences
Circulation / 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	
Other	None of amber or red symptoms	 Fever for ≥ 5 days Risk factors for severe disease – known asthma, chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis/CF, immunodeficiency etc. Additional parental/carer support required 	Sudden onset and parental concern about inhaled foreign body



<u>Provide cough/breathlessness >1 year safety</u> <u>netting advice</u>

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given.

Always consider safeguarding issues

Amber Action

For face to face review (consider if video consultation is appropriate).

If timely clinical review cannot be facilitated in primary care, low threshold for referral to ED.

Red Action

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

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