

Cough/breathlessness in child < 1 year of age

For use by healthcare professionals only



Clinical Assessment/Management Tool for Children

Primary and Community Care Settings

CLINICAL FINDINGS	GREEN LOW RISK	AMBER MEDIUM RISK	RED HIGH RISK
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR 50-70 breaths/min Mild / moderate respiratory distress Audible stridor only when distressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grunting RR > 70 breaths/min Severe respiratory distress Pauses in breathing (apnoea) Audible stridor at rest
Circulation and Hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms Able to tolerate some fluids Passing urine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold hands and feet in absence of fever Reduced urine output Reduced fluid intake: 50-75% of usual intake over previous 3-4 feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markedly reduced fluid intake: < 50% of usual intake over last 2—3 feeds
Colour Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or wakens quickly Strong normal cry / not crying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pallor Reduced response to social cues Wakes only after prolonged stimulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)
Other symptoms, and signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 $\geq 39^{\circ}$ Fever ≥ 5 days Additional parental/carer support required Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 0-3 months with temp $\geq 38^{\circ}$

GREEN ACTION	AMBER ACTION	RED ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide cough/breathlessness in children under 1 year safety netting advice Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given Always consider safeguarding issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety net and consider planning review or advise about what to do if worsens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc