

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

Clinical Assessment/Management tool for Children



Primary and Community Care Settings

CLINICAL FINDINGS	GREEN LOW RISK	AMBER MEDIUM RISK	RED HIGH RISK
<b>Respiratory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tachypnoea</li> <li>Mild / Moderate respiratory distress</li> <li>Audible stridor on exertion/distress only</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe tachypnoea</li> <li>Severe respiratory distress</li> <li>Audible stridor at rest or grunting</li> <li>Unable to complete sentences</li> </ul>
<b>Circulation and Hydration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> <li>Able to tolerate some fluids</li> <li>Passing urine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cold hands and feet in absence of fever</li> <li>Reduced urine output 50-75% usual intake</li> <li>Not tolerating fluids / repeated vomiting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Markedly reduced fluid intake: &lt; 50% of normal intake</li> </ul>
<b>Colour and Activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue</li> <li>Content/smiles</li> <li>Stays awake/awakens quickly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pale</li> <li>Decreased activity/lethargic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue or grey colour</li> <li>Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake</li> <li>Confused</li> </ul>
<b>Other symptoms, and signs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever for ≥ 5 days</li> <li>Risk factors for severe disease – known asthma, chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis/CF, immunodeficiency</li> <li>Additional parental/carer support required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sudden onset and parental concern about inhaled foreign body</li> </ul>
	<b>GREEN ACTION</b>	<b>AMBER ACTION</b>	<b>RED ACTION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide cough/breathlessness &gt;1 year safety netting advice</li> <li>Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given.</li> <li>Always consider safeguarding issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety net and consider planning review or advise about what to do it worsens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc.</li> </ul>