

Cough/breathlessness in child <1 year of age



Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
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 or irritability 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)
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 (apnoeas) Audible stridor at rest
Circulation / hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<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"> <50% fluid intake over 2-3 feeds / 12 hours or appears dehydrated
Other	<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, neuromuscular weakness Age 3-6 months with temp $\geq 39^{\circ}$ (102.2°F) Fever for ≥ 5 days Additional parental/carer support required or reattendance Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 0-3 months with temp $\geq 38^{\circ}$ (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

For face to face review

Red Action

Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity.
[Call Paediatric Advice line](#) to inform them.

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