

Abdominal Pain

Clinical assessment / management tool for children



Management - Paramedic

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Age	1+	Under 1	
Activity	Content/smiles Stays awake / awakens quickly Strong normal cry / not crying	No smile Decreased activity / lethargic Irritable	No response Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Weak, high pitched or continuous cry Severe pain
Skin	Normal skin colour CRT < 2 secs Warm extremities	Pale CRT 2-3 secs	Blue, grey or mottled CRT > 3 secs Cold hands and feet in absence of fever
Hydration	Normal heart rate Normal fontanelle Normal urine output Moist tongue and conjunctivae	Normal HR Sunken fontanelle Reduced urine output/not passed in 12 hours Dry tongue and conjunctivae	Tachycardia: HR > 160 beats/min < 1 year, HR > 150 1-2 years, > 140 3-5 years, > 120 6-11 years, > 100 > 12 years No urine output in 24 hours
Respiratory	Normal respiratory rate: RR < 50 (< 1 year), < 40 (1-5 years), < 25 (6-11 years), < 20 (12+)	Normal respiratory rate: RR < 50 (< 1 year), < 40 (1-5 years), < 25 (6-11 years), < 20 (12+)	Tachypnoea: RR > 50 breaths/min (< 1 year), > 40 (1-5 years), > 25 (6-11 years), > 20 (12+ years)
Other		Polyuria, dysuria or urgency Reduced appetite Additional parent/carer concerns Pain not settling with analgesia Waking with pain Pain increased on movement Fever for > 5 days	Non blanching rash Oedema Jaundice Dark green (bilious) vomiting Recent injury to the abdomen Testicular pain Blood in stool; Age 0-3 months with temp ≥ 38°

