Cough and Breathlessness over 1

Clinical assessment / management tool for children





Management - Paramedic

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour	Normal	Pale	Blue, grey or mottled
Activity	Alert	Miserable	Unresponsive
	Stays awake / awakens quickly	Decreased activity / lethargic	Aggitated
			Confused
Respiratory	RR <30 if age 1-4 years	RR 30-40 if age 1-4 years	RR >40 if age 1-4 years
	RR <25 if age 5 years +	RR 25-30 if age 5 years+	RR >30 if age 5 years+
	No chest recession	Mild / Moderate resp distress/chest recession	Severe chest recession
	No stridor	Stridor on exertion/distress only	Stridor at rest
			Unable to talk in sentences
			Silent chest, poor respiratory effort
Circulation / hydration	Normal Heart Rate	Normal Heart Rate	Heart Rate >140 (1-4 years) OR >125 (5 years+)
	Cap Refill Time <2 secs	Cap Refill Time 2-3 secs	Cap Refill Time >3 secs
	Able to tolerate some fluids	Reduced urine output	Cold hands and feet in absence of fever
	Normal urine output	Not tolerating fluids / repeated vomiting	Unable to swallow saliva
Other	None of amber or red symptoms	Fever for ≥ 5 days	Sudden onset and parental concern about
			inhaled foreign body
		Risk factors for severe disease – known asthma,	
		chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis/CF,	
		immunodeficiency etc	
		Additional parental/carer support required	

Green Action (Only in those 1+ years)

Provide Cough&Breathlessness safety netting advice via text share or by printing onsite

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions / advice given

Always consider safeguarding issues.

Amber Action

Discuss the case with patient's GP practice (in hours)

and/or

Discuss the case with SCAS clinical Coordination Centre Clinician

Red Action

Transfer immediately to local Emergency Department

Commence Oxygen support to maintain Sats >94%

Emergency transfer and Pre alert as necessary

If has urticarial rash or swollen face/lips - consider IM adrenaline as per JR Calc

If patient has wheeze on auscultation - consider salbutamol and ipratropium brom de nebulisers as per JR Calc

f audible stridor please give oral dexamethasone as per JRCalc

f patient is in distress/discomfort - consider paracetamol +/- ibuprofen as per JR Calc