

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 • 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"> • Markedly reduced fluid intake: <50% of usual intake over last 2-3 feeds
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 • Age 3-6 months with temp $\geq 39^\circ$ (102.2°F) • Fever for ≥ 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 $\geq 38^\circ$ (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

Consider video consultation
and/or
refer to primary care service for review

Red Action

Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc.