Earache pathway



Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

Clinical findings	Green – Iow risk	Amber – intermediate risk	
Colour Activity	 Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or wakens quickly Strong normal cry/not crying 	 Pallor Reduced response to social cues Wakes only after prolonged stimulation Infant (under 1 year) not feeding Very distressed 	 Blue or grey of Unable to rou Clinical concerning pitched or corn
Respiratory	None of amber or red symptoms	 RR 50-60 breaths/min if aged <12 months RR 40-50 breaths/min if age 1-5 years RR 25-30 breaths/min if age 6 -11 years RR 20-25 breaths/min if age ≥12 years Mild/moderate respiratory distress 	 Grunting or set RR >60 breat RR >50 breat RR >30 breat RR >25 breat
Circulation / hydration	None of amber or red symptoms	 Cold hands and feet in absence of fever Reduced urine output Not tolerating fluids 	
Other	None of amber or red symptoms	 Pus discharging from ear Pain waking child from sleep Child under 2 years with bilat earache Swelling or redness behind the ear Dizziness or losing their balance Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) with no clear focus of infection Fever for ≥ 5 days Additional parental/carer support required Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities 	 Age 0-3 mon Meningism (s photophobia, Seizure
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	Green Action	Amber Action	
	Provide earache safety netting advice sheet Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/	Consider video consultation and/or	Refer immedia consider whet most appropri

This guidance has been reviewed and adapted by healthcare professionals across SYB with consent from the Hampshire development groups

This document was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available including but not exclusively NICE, SIGN, EBM data and NHS evidence, as applicable. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. The guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient in consultation with the patient and / or carer.





Red – high risk

colour

ouse or if roused does not stay awake cerns about nature of cry (Weak, high ontinuous)

severe respiratory distress aths/min if aged <12 months aths/min if age 1-5 years aths/min if age 6 -11 years aths/min if age ≥12 years

on the with temp $\geq 38^{\circ}$ (100.4°F) (severe headache, neck stiffness, a, irritability)



diately to emergency care – ether 999 transfer or parent/taxi priate based on clinical acuity etc.

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