

# 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"> <li>• Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue</li> <li>• Responds normally to social cues</li> <li>• Content/smiles</li> <li>• Stays awake or wakens quickly</li> <li>• Strong normal cry / not crying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pallor</li> <li>• Reduced response to social cues</li> <li>• Wakes only after prolonged stimulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue or grey colour</li> <li>• Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake</li> <li>• Clinical concerns about nature of cry (Weak, high pitched or continuous)</li> </ul>
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None of amber or red symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RR 50-70 breaths/min</li> <li>• Mild / moderate respiratory distress</li> <li>• Audible stridor only when distressed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grunting</li> <li>• RR &gt; 70 breaths/min</li> <li>• Severe respiratory distress</li> <li>• Pauses in breathing (apnoeas)</li> <li>• Audible stridor at rest</li> </ul>
Circulation / hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None of amber or red symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cold hands and feet in absence of fever</li> <li>• Reduced urine output</li> <li>• Reduced fluid intake: 50-75% of usual intake over previous 3-4 feeds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markedly reduced fluid intake: &lt;50% of usual intake over last 2-3 feeds</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None of amber or red symptoms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk factors for severe illness: pre-existing lung condition, congenital heart disease, age &lt;6 weeks (Corrected), prematurity &lt;35 weeks, known immunodeficiency</li> <li>• Age 3-6 months with temp <math>\geq 39^{\circ}</math> (102.2<math>^{\circ}</math>F)</li> <li>• Fever for <math>\geq 5</math> days</li> <li>• Additional parental/carer support required</li> <li>• Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 0-3 months with temp <math>\geq 38^{\circ}</math> (100.4<math>^{\circ}</math>F)</li> <li>• Seizure</li> </ul>

**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.