# Cough/breathlessness in child <1 year of age

## Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical findings</th>
<th>Green – low risk</th>
<th>Amber – intermediate risk</th>
<th>Red – high risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Colour Activity   | • Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue  
                      • Responds normally to social cues  
                      • Content/smiles  
                      • Stays awake or wakes quickly  
                      • Strong normal cry / not crying | • Pallor  
                      • Reduced response to social cues  
                      • Wakes only after prolonged stimulation | • 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       | • None of amber or red symptoms | • RR 50-70 breaths/min  
                      • Mild / moderate respiratory distress  
                      • Audible stridor only when distressed | • Grunting  
                      • RR > 70 breaths/min  
                      • Severe respiratory distress  
                      • Pauses in breathing (apnoeas)  
                      • Audible stridor at rest |
| Circulation / hydration | • None of amber or red symptoms | • Cold hands and feet in absence of fever  
                      • Reduced urine output  
                      • Reduced fluid intake: 50-75% of usual intake over previous 3-4 feeds | • Markedly reduced fluid intake: <50% of usual intake over last 2-3 feeds |
| Other             | • None of amber or red symptoms | • Risk factors for severe illness: pre-existing lung condition, congenital heart disease, age <6 weeks (Corrected), prematurity <38 weeks, known immunodeficiency  
                      • Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F)  
                      • Fever for ≥ 5 days  
                      • Additional parental/carer support required  
                      • Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities | • Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F)  
                      • Seizure |

## Actions

**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.