Cough/breathlessness pathway for children ≥ 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>
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</thead>
</table>
| Colour            | • Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue  
                   • Content/smiles  
                   • Stays awake/awakens quickly | • Pale  
                   • No smile  
                   • Decreased activity/lethargic | • Blue or grey colour  
                   • No response  
                   • Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake  
                   • Confused  
                   • Clinical concerns about nature of cry (Weak, high pitched or continuous) |
| Activity          |                  |                           |                 |
| Respiratory       | • None of amber or red symptoms | • RR >40 breaths/min if age 12 months - 23 months  
                   • RR >35 breaths/min if age 2-5 years  
                   • RR >30 breaths/min if age 5 -12 years  
                   • RR >25 breaths/min if age >12 years  
                   • Mild / Moderate resp distress  
                   • Audible stridor on exertion/distress only | • Grunting  
                   • Audible stridor at rest  
                   • Severe tachypnoea: RR > 10 breaths per minute above amber levels  
                   • Severe respiratory distress  
                   • Unable to complete sentences |
| Circulation / hydration | • None of amber or red symptoms  
                   • Able to tolerate some fluids  
                   • Passing urine | • Cold hands and feet in absence of fever  
                   • Reduced urine output  
                   • Not tolerating fluids / repeated vomiting  
                   • Unable to swallow saliva |                     |
| Other             | • None of amber or red symptoms | • Fever for ≥ 5 days  
                   • Risk factors for severe disease – known asthma, chronic lung disease, bronchiectasis/CF, immunodeficiency etc.  
                   • Additional parental/carer support required | • Sudden onset and parental concern about inhaled foreign body |

**Green Action**

Provide cough/breathlessness >1 year safety netting advice  
Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/advice given.  
Always consider safeguarding issues

**Amber Action**

For face to face review (consider if video consultation is appropriate).

**Red Action**

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