# 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  

## Action

**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**
- For face to face review (consider if video consultation is appropriate).
- If timely clinical review cannot be facilitated in primary care, low threshold for referral to ED.

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