

Sore throat pathway

- Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment by NHS 111 clinicians

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal colour or skin, lips and tongue Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or wakens quickly Strong normal cry / not crying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pallor Reduced response to social cues Wakes only after prolonged stimulation Infant (under 1 year) not feeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue or grey colour Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Clinician concerns about nature of cry in infant (Weak, high pitched or continuous)
Respiratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR 50-60 breaths/min if aged <12 months RR >40 breaths/min if age ≥12 months Mild/moderate respiratory distress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grunting Severe tachypnoea: RR > 60 breaths/min Severe respiratory distress
Circulation / hydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold hands and feet in absence of fever Reduced urine output Not tolerating fluids Unable to swallow saliva 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms Associated with runny nose/cough with other family members affected FeverPAIN score <4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty opening mouth FeverPAIN score ≥ 4 (1 point for each of fever, purulence, calls within 3 days of onset or less, severely Inflamed tonsils, no cough or coryza): 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F)

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GREEN ACTION

Provide sore throat safety netting advice.
Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/
advice given
Always consider safeguarding issues.

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AMBER ACTION

Refer to primary care service for review

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RED ACTION

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