

Cough/breathlessness in child <1 year of age

- 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RR 50-70 breaths/min Mild / moderate respiratory distress Audible stridor only on when distressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grunting RR > 70 breaths/min Severe respiratory distress Pauses in breathing (apnoeas) Audible stridor at rest
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 Reduced fluid intake: 50-75% of usual intake over previous 3-4 feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markedly reduced fluid intake: <50% of usual intake over last 2-3 feeds
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of amber or red symptoms <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GREEN ACTION</p> <p>Provide cough/breathlessness in children under 1 year safety netting advice. Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/advice given Always consider safeguarding issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk factors for severe illness: pre-existing lung condition, congenital heart disease, age <6 weeks (Corrected), prematurity <35 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 <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AMBER ACTION</p> <p>Refer to primary care service for review</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F) Seizure <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RED ACTION</p> <p>Refer immediately to emergency care – consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity etc</p>