## **Earache pathway**



## **Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment**

<ul> <li>Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue</li> <li>Responds normally to social cues</li> <li>Content/smiles</li> <li>Stays awake or wakens quickly</li> <li>Strong normal cry/not crying</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Pallor</li> <li>Reduced response to social cues</li> <li>Wakes only after prolonged stimulation</li> <li>Infant (under 1 year) not feeding</li> <li>Very distressed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Blue or grey of</li> <li>Unable to rou</li> <li>Clinical concerning</li> <li>pitched or corn</li> </ul>
None of amber or red symptoms	<ul> <li>RR 50-60 breaths/min if aged &lt;12 months</li> <li>RR 40-50 breaths/min if age 1-5 years</li> <li>RR 25-30 breaths/min if age 6 -11 years</li> <li>RR 20-25 breaths/min if age ≥12 years</li> <li>Mild/moderate respiratory distress</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Grunting or set</li> <li>RR &gt;60 breat</li> <li>RR &gt;50 breat</li> <li>RR &gt;30 breat</li> <li>RR &gt;25 breat</li> </ul>
None of amber or red symptoms	<ul> <li>Cold hands and feet in absence of fever</li> <li>Reduced urine output</li> <li>Not tolerating fluids</li> </ul>	
None of amber or red symptoms	<ul> <li>Pus discharging from ear</li> <li>Pain waking child from sleep</li> <li>Child under 2 years with bilat earache</li> <li>Swelling or redness behind the ear</li> <li>Dizziness or losing their balance</li> <li>Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) with no clear focus of infection</li> <li>Fever for ≥ 5 days</li> <li>Additional parental/carer support required</li> <li>Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Age 0-3 mon</li> <li>Meningism (s photophobia,</li> <li>Seizure</li> </ul>
Green Action	Amber Action	
Provide earache safety netting advice sheet Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given Always consider safeguarding issues	Consider video consultation and/or refer to primary care service for review	Refer immedia consider whet most appropri
-	<ul> <li>Responds normally to social cues</li> <li>Content/smiles</li> <li>Stays awake or wakens quickly</li> <li>Strong normal cry/not crying</li> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> <li>Green Action</li> <li>Provide earache safety netting advice sheet Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Responds normally to social cues</li> <li>Content/smiles</li> <li>Stays awake or wakens quickly</li> <li>Strong normal cry/not crying</li> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> <li>RR 50-60 breaths/min if aged &lt;12 months</li> <li>RR 40-50 breaths/min if aged &lt;12 months</li> <li>RR 25-30 breaths/min if age 1-5 years</li> <li>RR 20-25 breaths/min if age 212 years</li> <li>Mild/moderate respiratory distress</li> <li>Cold hands and feet in absence of fever</li> <li>Reduced urine output</li> <li>Not tolerating fluids</li> <li>None of amber or red symptoms</li> <li>Pus discharging from ear</li> <li>Pain waking child from sleep</li> <li>Child under 2 years with bilat earache</li> <li>Swelling or redness behind the ear</li> <li>Dizziness or losing their balance</li> <li>Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) with no clear focus of infection</li> <li>Fever for ≥ 5 days</li> <li>Additional parental/carer support required</li> <li>Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic co-morbidities</li> </ul>

This guidance has been reviewed and adapted by healthcare professionals across HWE with consent from the Hampshire development groups

This document was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available including but not exclusively NICE, SIGN, EBM data and NHS evidence, as applicable. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. The guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient in consultation with the patient and / or carer.





## Red – high risk

colour

ouse or if roused does not stay awake cerns about nature of cry (Weak, high ontinuous)

severe respiratory distress aths/min if aged <12 months aths/min if age 1-5 years aths/min if age 6 -11 years aths/min if age ≥12 years

on the with temp  $\geq 38^{\circ}$  (100.4°F) (severe headache, neck stiffness, a, irritability)



diately to emergency care – ether 999 transfer or parent/taxi priate based on clinical acuity etc.

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