Fever Paediatric Pathway

Clinical assessment/management tool for children

Management – Primary Care and Community Settings





History of fever ≥ 38° C

Is the child younger than 3 months?

Yes

Will need face to face review in hospitalbased setting. Consider whether 999 transfer or parent/taxi most appropriate based on clinical acuity.

NO

Clinical Findings	Green- low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Colour activity	 Normal colour of skin, lips and tongue Responds normally to social cues Content/smiles Stays awake or wakens quickly Strong normal cry / not crying 	 Pallor Reduced response to social cues Wakes only after prolonged stimulation Infant (under 1 year) not feeding 	 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 50-60 breaths/min if aged <12 months RR 40-50 breaths/min if age 1-5 years RR 25-30 breaths/min if age 6 -11 years RR 20-25 breaths/min if age ≥12 years Mild/moderate respiratory distress 	 Grunting or severe respiratory distress RR >60 breaths/min if aged <12 months RR >50 breaths/min if age 1-5 years RR >30 breaths/min if age 6 -11 years RR >25 breaths/min if age ≥12 years
Circulation/Hydration	None of amber or red symptoms	 Cold hands and feet in absence of fever Reduced urine output Not tolerating fluids 	
Other	None of amber or red symptoms	 Fever for ≥ 5 days Swelling of limb or joint Non-weight bearing / not using an extremity Swollen eye A new lump ≥ 2cm Symptoms suggest UTI Symptoms suggest cellulitis Symptoms suggest scarlet fever Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) with no clear focus of infection Additional parental/carer support required Lower threshold for face to face review if significant chronic comorbidities Recent return from malaria endemic area in preceding 3 months 	 Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° C (100.4°F) Seizure Rigors Non-blanching rash



Provide Fever <u>safety netting advice</u> for children: Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/advice given Always consider safeguarding issues



Amber Action

Consider referral to Community Nursing team: **HERE**



Red Action

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

*Normal paediatric values:						
(APLS†)	Respiratory Rate at rest: [b/min]	Heart Rate [bpm]				
< 1 year	30 - 40	110 - 160				
1-2 years	25 - 35	100 - 150				
> 2-5 years	25 - 30	95 - 140				
5-12 years	20-25	80-120				
>12 years	15-20	60-100				

Paediatric Values - Abnormal Values								
Age	Respiratory Rate (breaths/min)		Heart Rate (bpm)					
	Amber	Red	Amber	Red				
<1 year 1-2 years 3-4 years 5 years old	50-59 40-49 35-39 24-28	≥ 60 ≥50 ≥ 40 ≥ 29	150-159 140-149 130-139 120-129	≥160 ≥ 150 ≥140 ≥ 130				