**CLINICAL ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR BABIES/CHILDREN UNDER 2 YEARS WITH SUSPECTED BRONCHIOLITIS IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Suspected Bronchiolitis?**

\*Snuffly nose \*Poor feeding \*Pyrexia \*Head bobbing

\*Bronchiolitis season \*Inspiratory crackle +/-wheeze

\*Chesty Cough \*Vomiting \*Increased work of breathing \*Cyanosis

Consider differential diagnosis if - temp ≥38°C (sepsis) or sweaty (cardiac) or unusual features of illness

If child is <3 months and temp ≥38.0 - admit

* [NICE guidelines for Fever in under 5’s: assessment and initial management](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng143)
* [HWE Healthier Together Fever pathway](https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/application/files/3616/1219/0583/Fever_pathway_for_remote_assessment4.pdf)

Offer all babies/children with suspected bronchiolitis a **face-to-face appointment** with a clinician

Obtain full history (if not previously taken)

Measure: Temperature, oxygen saturations, heart rate and respiratory rate

If any amber features and no red (see Table 1)

If all green features and no amber or red (see Table 1)

If any red features (see Table 1)

Provide parents/carers with discharge advice, including [Bronchiolitis leaflet for parents](https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/professionals/gp-primary-care-staff/safety-netting-documents-parents/bronchiolitis).

Consider arranging a follow up appointment with an appropriate healthcare professional.

If other factors present, consider discussion with community nursing team (if available) as to whether a visit or phone call is required.

**Consider advice from a paediatrician and/or provide a clear management plan agreed with parents.**

**.**

* Contact the paediatrician via [**CONSULTANT CONNECT**](https://healthierfuture.org.uk/publications/consultant-connect)**.**
* Provide written or verbal information on warning symptoms and accessing further healthcare.
* [Bronchiolitis leaflet for parents](https://www.hwehealthiertogether.nhs.uk/professionals/gp-primary-care-staff/safety-netting-documents-parents/bronchiolitis).
* Consider referral to community nursing team if available.
* Consider arranging a follow up or review.

Refer immediately for emergency care – consider 999.

Commence relevant treatment to stabilise baby/child for transfer if appropriate.

Consider commencing high flow oxygen supply.

Send relevant documentation.

Admit

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| **Table 1:**  **Traffic light system for identifying likelihood of serious illness** | | | | |
|  | **Green – low risk** | **Amber – intermediate risk** | | **Red – high risk** |
| **Behaviour** | Alert  Normal | Irritable  Not responding to normal social cues  Decreased activity  No smile | | Unable to rouse  Wakes only with prolonged stimulation  No response to social cues  Weak, high pitched or continuous cry  Appears ill to a healthcare professional |
| **Skin** | CRT < 2 seconds  Normal colour skin, lips, and tongue  Moist mucous membranes | CRT 2-3 seconds  Pallor reported by parent/carer  Cool peripheries | | CRT over 3 seconds  Pale/mottled/ashen blue  Cyanotic lips and tongue |
| **Temperature** | <37.9  >6m & responded to paracetamol | ≥38.0 | | If child is <3 months and temp ≥38.0 - admit |
| **Respiratory Rate** | <12 months <50 breaths/minute  >12 months <40 breaths/minute  No respiratory distress | <12 months 50-60 breaths/minute  >12 months 40-60 breaths/minute | | All ages >60 breaths/minute |
| **SATS in air** | 95% or above | 92-94% | | <92% |
| **Chest Recession** | None | Moderate | | Severe |
| **Nasal Flaring** | Absent | May be present | | Present |
| **Grunting** | Absent | Absent | | Present |
| **Feeding Hydration** | Normal – no vomiting | 50-70% fluid intake over 3-4 feeds +/- vomiting. Reduced urine output | | <50% fluid intake over 2-3 feeds +/- vomiting. Significantly reduced urine output |
| **Apnoeas** | Absent | Absent | | Present\* |
| *CRT: capillary refill time* | | | *SATS: saturations in air* | |
| *\*Apnoea: For 10-15 seconds or shorter if accompanied by a sudden decrease in saturations/central cyanosis or bradycardia* | | | | |

**Healthcare professionals should be aware of the increased need for hospital admission in infants with the following:**

* Pre-existing lung disease, congenital heart disease, neuromuscular weakness, immune-incompetence
* Age < 3 months (corrected)
* Prematurity
* Family anxiety
* Families ability to look after child at home (including distance to healthcare facilities)
* Re-attendance
* Previous admission to PICU
* Duration of illness is less than 3 days and Amber – may need to admit

**Signs and Symptoms can include:**

* Rhinorrhoea (Runny nose)
* Cough
* Poor Feeding
* Vomiting
* Pyrexia
* Respiratory distress
* Apnoea
* Inspiratory crackles +/- wheeze
* Cyanosis

**This guidance is written in the following context:**

This assessment tool is based on NICE guidance, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the evidence available. 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 guardian or carer.