Sore throat pathway





Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

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 Clinician concerns about nature of cry in infant (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 Unable to swallow saliva 	
Other	None of amber or red symptoms Associated with runny nose/cough with other family	 Difficulty opening mouth Absence of cough/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 Symptoms for >72 hours and getting worse 	• Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F)



Provide sore throat safety netting advice

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given

Always consider safeguarding issues

Amber Action

Consider video consultation

and/or

refer to primary care service for review

Red Action

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

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