

Community Assessment Tool for Possible Bronchiolitis

Making the Diagnosis

Consider the diagnosis when:

- Correct Season (November – March; it can rarely occur at other times of the year)
- Under 1 year of age (less likely in 1-2 year olds)

Early disease

- Blocked or runny nose
- Mild fever
- Loss of interest in feeding or struggling to feed
- Cough (typically a tight, short, cough, or cough with wheeze)
- Mild breathlessness

Disease progression over 2-3 days. (The disease lasts 9 to 12 days)

- Rapid or shallow breathing
- Cough (typically a tight, short, cough, or cough with wheeze)
- Faster than normal heart beat
- Increased work of breathing (tracheal tug, nasal flaring, indrawing, grunting)
- Increased difficulty in feeding

Severity Assessment

SEVERE Any feature present Call 999 & Give Oxygen if available	MODERATE Any feature present Admit for assessment	MILD All features must be present Can be managed at home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apnoea (pauses in breathing for more than 10 seconds) • Cyanosis • Lethargy or Exhaustion (very anxious child, breathing rapidly, sweating, losing consciousness) • Respiratory rate over 70 • Severe chest wall recession • Presence of nasal flaring and or grunting • Oxygen saturation less than 90% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncertainty about diagnosis • Poor feeding (less 50% of normal fluid intake in the previous 24 hours) • Respiratory rate over 50 breaths per minute • Oxygen saturation <95% • Pyrexia over 38°C (Possibility of secondary bacterial infection) • Intercostal or subcostal recession 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child older than 6 weeks • Temperature ≤38C • Feeding Adequately (more than 50% of normal daily intake in last 24 hours) • Respiratory Rate <50 breaths per minute • Heart Rate <140 beats per minute • No other family stressors

Risk Factors

If any of these features are present, the threshold for admission should be lowered

- Young infants, early in their disease, require a lower threshold for admission
- < 6 weeks of age are particularly at risk
- Ex Premature (<36 weeks) Babies
- Chronic Lung disease
- Chronic Heart Disease

Managing Children with Bronchiolitis at Home

- Complete the “Serial Observations in primary care” and
- Give Patient Information Leaflet
- Patient Information Leaflet discussed
- Specific advice on indicators of deterioration, action to be taken and contact details

Serial observations in primary care

Time/ Date							
HR							
RR							
Temp							
Saturation							
Severity	Mild	Mild	Mild	Mild	Mild	Mild	Mild
	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod	Mod
	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe	Severe
Signature							
Name							