

# Gastroenteritis Pathway for Children 0-5 years in a primary care setting

Patient Presents

Do the symptoms and/or signs suggest an immediately life threatening illness?

Yes

999 Transfer

Refer immediately to emergency care by 999 ambulance, stay with child whilst waiting and give High-Flow Oxygen support

Consider differential diagnosis if:  
temp > 39C or unusual features of illness

	Green - Low risk	Amber - intermediate	Red - high risk
Activity	Responds normally to social cues Content/Smiles Stays awake/awakes quickly Strong normal cry/not crying Normal skin colour	Altered response to social cues Decreased activity No smile	Not responding normally to or no response to social cues Appears ill to a healthcare professional Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Weak, high-pitched or continuous cry Pale/Mottled/Ashen/blue
Skin		Normal skin colour Warm extremities	Cold extremities
Respiratory	Normal breathing	Mild Tachypnoea (ref to normal values table)	Tachycardic (ref to normal values table)
Hydration	CRT $\leq$ 2 secs Moist mucous membranes (except after a drink) Normal urine	CRT 2-3 secs Dry mucous membrane (except after a drink) Reduced urine output (two nappies in 4hrs)	CRT >3 seconds
Pulse/Heart rate	Heart rate normal Peripheral pulse normal	Tachycardic (ref to normal values table)	Tachycardic (ref to normal values table) Peripheral pulses weak
Blood pressure	Normal (ref to normal values table)	Normal (ref to normal values tables)	Hypotensive (ref to normal values tables)
Eyes	Normal Eyes	Sunken eyes	
	CRT = capillary refill time    RR= respiration rate		

All green

Any amber

Any red

Advice available if required

Phone

Paediatric SHO for admission  
Paediatric Registrar / consultant for advice

PAU Admission

Urgent Assessment at PAU

Registrar books appointment at Daily Ambulatory Clinic

Admission not required  
Agree Management Plan

Registrar provides verbal advice and GP agrees management plan directly with parent /carers

Provide discharge advice

Provide appropriate and clear guidance to the parent / carer and refer to the discharge advice sheet

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions and advice

Advise hand washing and hygiene measures to prevent spread

This guidance is written in the following context;

*This assessment tool is based on NICE and SIGN 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. This 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 them.*

**Good Practice**

It is recommended that additional appropriate and clear guidance is provided to the parent/carer if available.

Confirm ahead of patient discharge that they are comfortable with the decisions and advice given.

## Normal Paediatric Values

### Respiratory Rates according to age groups

Age	Normal RR/min	Severe Distress
<1month	40-50	>70 or <20
<1year	30-40	>70
2-5 years	20-30	>50
5-12years	20-24	>40
>12years	12-20	>40

### Systolic Blood Pressure according to age group

Age	Systolic BP Normal mmHg	Systolic BP(lower limit)
0-1 month	60	50
1-12 month	80	70
1-10 years	90 +2x age	70 +2x age
>10years	120	80

### Heart Rate Normal Range

Age	Heart Rate/min
<1month	100-180
<1year	110-160
2-5years	95-140
5-12years	80-120
>12years	60-100