



# Common Respiratory Conditions in Primary Care

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## How sick am I ? - Triage and when to refer or discuss





Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

## Jesse

• 10 months old

Mum reports Jesse has been coughing for 3 days, has a runny nose and is miserable



- What more information do you want from Mum?
- What would you look for when observing Jesse
- What would you measure
- What are reassuring signs
- What are worrying signs



#### **Current illness**

how long has it been going on for Is she getting better or worse... Is she eating, Is she drinking - passing urine ?Fever Energy, ?lethargic ?Rash

#### History

Previously well Recurrent illnesses Any other medical history of note Taking an medications

#### **Social history**

Family situation: support, nutrition Housing – warmth, crowding, stability Household smokers

## **A** – appearance (airway)

- Mental status, muscle tone, body position
- **B** breathing
  - Visible movement, (chest/abdo), effort – normal/increased
  - Accessory muscle /recession
  - Count the RR
- **C** colour (circulation)
  - ?tachycardia



Age		Normal respiratory rates	Normal pulse rate	Systolic BP
Newborns and infants	Up to 6 m old	30-60 breaths/min	100 - 160	>60
Infants	6 to 12 m old	24-30 breaths/min	100 - 160	>60
Toddlers and children	1 to 5 years old	20-30 breaths/min	90 - 150	>70
Children	6 to 12 years	12-20 breaths/min	70 - 120	>80

Refs: health.msn.com and health.ny.gov/professional.ems.education



Flemming S Lancet 2011,377(9770):1011-1018



## **Red flags for sick kids**



# **Red Flags**

- Fever
- Colour
- Respiratory distress
- Raised RR/HR
- 02 saturation
- Lethargy
- Not drinking
  - Reduced urine output
- Recurrent or prolongued
- Previous history
- On any medication
- Concerns in the social situation

#### ... Use of clinical pathways



Please (do), here to view the development team for the Acute Respiratory liness in Children Pathway

## What advice would you give this mother?

https://www.spottingthesickchild.com/register



## **?Treating a fever**



# our opinion

- From an immunological point of view pyrexia may be good
- Duration of fever ≠ serious bacterial infection
- Need the diagnosis
- Need to review if not improving
- Need to treat dehydration
- Use analgesia for pain /distress, not fever
- Mostly viruses higher fever than bacteria
  - But not always eg bronchiolitis
- No evidence for use of `antipyrexia'
  - no evidence for 'height of fever' as a threshold red flag

Tony Dowell & Nikki Turner

## **Mrs Jones**



The local rest home has rung

and is asking for advice.

Mrs Jones lives in her own unit, has been feeling unwell with a cough for 2 days

- What more information do you want to know
- What are the red flags
- What are the reassuring signs
- What advice would you offer

#### **Current illness**

how long has it been going on for Is she getting better or worse... What sort of cough is it What other symptoms does she have - SOB, chest pain Is she eating, sleeping Is she drinking - passing urine ?Fever Energy, ?lethargic

#### **History**

Previously well Recurrent illnesses Medical history of note Medications Smoker

# **Red Flags**

- <u>Confusion</u>
- Fever
- Getting worse
- Not drinking
- Socially Isolated
- Falls

# High risk of complications

>65 yrs with acute cough and 2 or more of the following criterion

or >80 yrs with one or more of the following criterion

- Type 1 or 2 diabetes
- Hx CHF
- Current use of oral steroids
- Systemically very unwell

#### Nice guideline 69

# Identifying those with RTIs who are likely to be at risk of developing complications

- Systemically very unwell
- Sx/signs of serious illness and/or complications (pneumonia, mastoiditis, intraorbital and intracranial complications)
- At high risk of serious complications from pre-existing comorbidities (significant heart, lung, renal, liver, neuromuscular disease, immunosuppression, infants born preterm)
- $\geq$  3 episodes of wet cough lasting > 4 weeks during the last 12 months
- Unlikely to promptly return for further consultation in the event of deterioration
- >65 with acute cough and 2 or more of the following criterion
  - Hospitalisation in previous year
  - Type 1 or 2 diabetes
  - Hx CHF
  - Current use of oral glucocorticoids



# **Flu Vaccination**





• Flu Vaccine is 'moderately' effective against hospitalisation and general practice influenza

BUT .....

- Higher effectiveness in healthy adults and children
- Reduced effectiveness for some important groups
  - Elderly
  - Chronic conditions
  - Very young children (unless had maternal vaccination)

## THERE IS A LOT OF FLU AROUND TO SPREAD - even when we don't know we have it

# 1 in 5 people are infected yearly only 30% of these are symptomatic Of the symptomatic: Only 22% seek General Practice care

Based on data from:



# DHB staff influenza coverage



## Evidence base....









## And how safe are our waiting rooms?





## 0800 IMMUNE (466 863)

### www.immune.org.nz

