Abdominal pain pathway

Healthier Together



Clinical support tool for remote clinical assessment

Clinical findings	Green – low risk	Amber – intermediate risk	Red – high risk
Behaviour	 Content/smiles Stays awake/awakens quickly Strong normal crying/not crying 	No smile Decreased activity/lethargic Irritable	 No response Unable to rouse or if roused does not stay awake Clinical concerns about nature of cry (weak, high pitched or continuous) Severe pain
Skin	Normal skin colour Warm extremities		Pale / mottled / blue Cold extremities
Hydration	Moist tongue and conjunctivae Fontanelle normal	Dry tongue and conjunctivae Sunken fontanelle	
Urine output	Normal	Reduced / not passed urine in past 12 hours	No urine for 24 hours
Respiratory	Normal pattern and rate		Abnormal/fast breathing
Other		 Polyuria, dysuria or urgency Reduced appetite Additional parent/carer concerns Pain not settling with analgesia Waking with pain Pain increased on movement Fever for >5 days Significant abdominal distension Age 3-6 months with temp ≥39° (102.2°F) with no clear focus of infection Small amount of blood in stool 	 Non blanching rash Described oedema Described jaundice Dark green (bilious) vomiting Recent injury to the abdomen Testicular pain Significant blood in stool Age 0-3 months with temp ≥38° (100.4°F)

Please follow the highest risk pathway e.g. if any red criteria met follow the red pathway.

Green Action

Confirm they are comfortable with the decisions/ advice given.

If cause not evident from remote consultation or chronic abdominal pain have a low threshold for face-to-face assessment depending on clinic scenario Always consider safeguarding issues

Abdominal Pain Safety Netting Leaflet

Amber Action

Consider use of video consultation to help aid decision making.

Refer to primary care for review HERE

Red Action

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

