

Policy  
Compliance  
Procedure



Health  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

## Infants and Children – Acute Management of Bronchiolitis

This PCP relates to

NSW Health PD

NSW PD2012\_004: Infants and Children - Acute Management of Bronchiolitis

PCP number

PD2012\_004:PCP 1

Sites where PCP applies

All HNE Health Emergency Departments (ED)

Target audience

Clinicians in ED where infants present with cough, wheeze and shortness of breath.

Description

Provides evidence based practice guidelines for the treatment of infants with bronchiolitis

Subject

Acute management of bronchiolitis in infants

Keywords

Acute, management, bronchiolitis, infants

Replaces Existing PCP?

Yes

Document number and/ or name of superseded document/s

PD 2005\_387: PCP 1, PD 2005\_387: PCP 2, PD 2005\_387: PCP 3, PD2005\_387: PCP 4, PD 2005\_387: PCP 5, PD 2005\_387: PCP 6, PD 2005\_387: PCP 7. From May 2007

Related Legislation (including OHS legislation), Australian Standards, NSW Health Policy or Circular, other HNELHD Documents, Professional Guidelines, Codes of Practice or Ethics:

- NSW Health PD2012\_004 Infants and Children – Acute Management of Bronchiolitis [http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2012/PD2012\\_004.html](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/policies/pd/2012/PD2012_004.html)

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Summary

- This PCP is a clinical pathway in the assessment of the severity and initial management of bronchiolitis in infants
- Provides guidelines on appropriate disposition, discharge planning, transfer/retrieval based on clinical assessment and response to initial treatment.
- PCP includes access to fact sheet for parent information: [www.kaleidoscope.org.au](http://www.kaleidoscope.org.au)

Distribution:

General Managers, DON, Paediatricians, NUM's ED, ED Physician, Director of Medical Services, CYP&FCN Stream Leaders, VMO GP's.

Date PCP authorised:

16 March 2012

PCP authorised by:

Professor Trish Davidson, Director Children Young People and Families Services

Date of Issue:

20 March 2012

PCP Review Due Date:

30 October 2015

TRIM Number:



12/29-2-6

**HNELHD Emergency Departments  
Acute Management of  
Bronchiolitis – March 2012**

Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_  
 Given Names \_\_\_\_\_  
 DOB \_\_\_\_\_ MRN \_\_\_\_\_  
 AFFIX PT LABEL HERE

**Assessment and Initial Management**

Reconsider diagnosis if the child is >1 year, looks “unwell”, has a high fever or responds poorly to treatment.

<b>Initial Severity Assessment</b>			
Treat in the highest category in which any symptom occurs			
Symptoms	Mild	Moderate	Severe and Life Threatening
<b>Appearance</b>	Well	Mildly Unwell	Unwell
<b>Respiratory Rate*</b>	Mild Tachypnoea	Moderate Tachypnoea	Apnoeas Severe Tachypnoea Greater than 70 Bradypnoea less than 30
<b>Work of Breathing</b>	Normal	Mild to Moderate	Moderate to Severe Grunting
<b>Cyanosis</b>	No Cyanosis	No Cyanosis	May be Cyanosed or Pale
<b>Oxygen Saturation Oxygen Requirement</b>	Above 95% in Air	90 - 95% in Air	Less than 90% in Air Less than 92% in O <sub>2</sub>
<b>Heart Rate</b>	Normal	Mild Tachycardia	Marked Tachycardia 180
<b>Feeding</b>	Normal or slightly Decreased	Difficulty feeding but may be able to take more than 50% of normal feed	Difficulty feeding taking less than 50% of normal feed
		<b>Contact Paediatrician</b>	<b>Get senior help then call NETS 1300 36 2500</b>
<b>Treatment</b>			
<b>Oxygen</b>	No	Give O <sub>2</sub> to maintain saturation at or above 95% and/or to improve work of breathing	Maintain oxygen saturation at greater than 95% Ensure high inspired oxygen via high flow delivery device if required
<b>Hydration</b>	Recommend smaller more frequent feeds if required	Smaller more frequent feeds Consider NG feeds	IV* fluids and NBM
<b>Investigations</b>	Nil required	Nil required	Consider – CXR and Blood Gas / BSL
<b>Observation &amp; Review</b>	Hourly	Continuous SaO <sub>2</sub> monitoring Minimum hourly observation	Continuous cardio respiratory and SaO <sub>2</sub> monitoring – Constant observation
<b>No or Poor response to Treatment</b>		Check diagnosis Escalate treatment	Get Senior Help Consult PICU via NETS Consider CPAP May need intubation
<b>Disposition</b>	Likely to go home	Likely to admit Decision around hospitalisation of infants with SaO <sub>2</sub> between 92% & 95 % should be supported by clinical assessment, phase of the illness & social & geographical factors	Transfer to an appropriate paediatric unit via NETS If in a children’s hospital may need PICU

\* If IV fluids are clinically indicated discuss IV fluid rate/fluid type with Paediatrician/Senior Emergency Physician. BEWARE: Fluid overload, pulmonary oedema, hypoglycaemia.

\* For a single reported apnoea before presentation admit for observation and treat as moderate.

FACT SHEET: See [www.kaleidoscope.org.au](http://www.kaleidoscope.org.au)