

ASTHMA ATTACK PROTOCOL

How to recognise an asthma attack

The signs of an asthma attack are:

- Persistent cough (when at rest).
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest).
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body).
- Nasal flaring.
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache).

Call an ambulance immediately and commence the asthma attack procedure without delay if the child:

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around their lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

What to do in the event of an asthma attack:

- Keep calm and reassure the child.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of Salbutamol via the spacer.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to activities when they feel better.
- **If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE.**
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes, give another 10 puffs in the same way.

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

This policy was last reviewed on: 01 September 2026

Signed:



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