

GASTROENTERITIS REFERRAL FROM GENERAL PRACTICE INTO THE CHILDREN'S AMBULATORY CARE EXPERIENCE (ACE) SERVICE

Child aged 1 year to under 6 years who has gastroenteritis, with mild to moderate clinical signs of dehydration. The child should have parameters within the range below and be able to manage 4 hours without clinical assessment.

Call children's ACE service on 01274 27 3354

Be prepared to convey information required on referral pro-forma including pulse, RR and temperature (if > 39 reconsider diagnosis).

Mild to Moderate

Respiratory Rate	1-2 years- 25-35 2-5 years 20-30
Heart Rate	1-2 years- 100-150 2-5 years- 95-140
Central Capillary Refill	Less than 2 seconds
Conscious Level	Slightly lethargic but rousable to alert and responsive
Urine Output	Normal to slightly decreased

Ensure child has been weighed and has been prescribed oral rehydration therapy [1ml/kg/minute) with 20ml syringe and parent/carer knows how to administer. If temperature >38C AND child under 3 years OR vomiting with no diarrhoea provide bottle for clean catch urine collection and testing

Ensure parent/guardian has been given:

1. Copy of children's ACE service information leaflet
2. Verbal safety-net advice and has also consented to share information with ACE.
3. Patient leaflet for GE and asked to record fluid volumes

Allow the child home to await contact from children's ACE service. This will be within 2 hours of initial referral.

Additional input given at home visit by ACE team:

- Support and encouragement with fluid intake
- Parental confidence-building
- Monitoring effectiveness of treatment
- Education in managing future episodes
- Recognition of dehydration and deterioration
- Check urine sample if temp > 38 and vomiting with no diarrhoea.

Exclusions:

- History/suspicion of metabolic, renal or electrolyte disorder
- History/suspicion of diabetes
- Complex congenital heart disease
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Stoma
- Immunodeficiency
- Suspected surgical abdomen. (*bilious vomiting, blood in stools, tender/rigid abdomen*)
- Child is outside age range for pathway