

# Suspected Appendicitis in CYP between 5 to <16 Years : Referral from ED or CCDA into the Children's Ambulatory Care Experience ( ACE ) Team

Any child aged between 5 - 16 years with abdominal pain that has < 25% likelihood of being acute appendicitis (as per pARC scoring) and who fulfils the inclusion criteria (and no features in exclusion criteria) can be considered

<u>Parameters</u>	<u>Mild Symptoms</u>
pARC <a href="#">pediatric Appendicitis Risk Calculator (pARC) (mdcalc.com)</a>	<25% ( Low Risk) **
Heart Rate	5-7 years : 80-130 8-11years : 70-120 >12 years : 65-115
Respiratory Rate	5-7 years : 20-30 8-11 years : 15-25 >12 years: 12-24
Central Capillary Refill	< 2 seconds
Temperature	< 37.3
PAWS	≤4
Urine Output	1ml/kg/hour at least (or) at least twice over the last 12 hours
Blood glucose	4-6 mmol/l
Urine dip	Normal / Sent for analysis
Fluids	≥50% calculated*
Conscious	Alert
Pregnancy Test	Considered and tested where appropriate

Additional input given at home by ACE team to:

1. Support with pain and fluid management
2. Monitor progress including hydration
3. Identify deterioration
4. Provide parental reassurance
5. Immediate escalation of care if there are any clinical concerns / no improvement in 12-24 hours

If Child meets eligibility criteria for step down appendicitis pathway AND Ward/CCDA Consultant has approved referral to ACE

Call children's ACE service on 01274 27 3354 and arrange for referral to service

ACE will confirm that PARC score less than 25% (including lab results) and will request current weight AND height.

- 1) ACE team will confirm surgical team aware
- 2) ACE accept referral
- 3) ACE will arrange follow up and clinically review child within 24 hours from referral

Ensure parent/guardian has:

1. A copy of children's ACE service information leaflet
2. An Abdominal Pain Parent information leaflet
3. Consented to share information with ACE

## Exclusion Criteria

<5years or >16years  
Non verbal or learning difficulties  
Children with medical complexity  
Likely gynaecological problem

## MEDICAL RED FLAGS

1. Septic appearance (fever, persistent tachycardia, lethargy/altered neurology)
2. Respiratory symptoms - suspect pneumonia
3. Generalized oedema suspect nephrotic syndrome
4. Significant dehydration (>5% weight loss)
5. Purpuric rash (suspect sepsis)
6. Jaundice
7. Polyuria / polydipsia (suspect diabetes)

## SURGICAL RED FLAGS

1. Peritoneal pain (guarding, generalised or localized rebound tenderness and/or altered bowel sounds, right iliac fossa pain)
2. Faeculent/bilious /projectile vomits
3. History of recent significant abdominal trauma
4. History of recent abdominal surgery
5. Irreducible hernia
6. Testicular torsion /pain
7. 'Red currant jelly' / bloody stool
8. Palpable abdominal mass / distension

**\*Fluid Requirement Calculator**  
[Holliday Segar Fluid calculation Formula](#)

# HyperLinks

- [Paediatric Appendicitis Risk Calculator \(PARC\) Score](#)
- \*\* If PARC Score >25% to refer to surgeons for review , consider imaging and then may be able to ambulate with ACE Team if no concerns persist
- [Fluid Requirement Calculator](#)