

CROUPY CHILD – 1 YEAR (or >10kg) TO UNDER 6 YEARS.

Referral from primary care into the Children's ambulatory care experience (ACE) service

Child presenting with croupy symptoms who requires clinical review (for up to 3 days) after initial assessment but not a hospital admission. 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 observations.



Ensure you have prescribed two doses of steroid [Nice guidelines recommend dexamethasone] first dose dexamethasone to be taken as soon as possible. A repeat dose may be required in 24 hours after review by the ACE nurse. Alternative 2 day course prednisolone can be given 1mg/kg (max 40mg)



Ensure parent/guardian has:

1. A copy of children's ACE service information leaflet
2. Verbal safety-net advice
3. Consented to share information with ACE



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



Additional input given at home visit by ACE team:

Support with oral fluids
Monitoring effectiveness of treatment
Identifying deterioration
Parental confidence building
Education in managing future episodes
Smoking cessation advice

Exclusions

- Child who is drooling excessively
- Known to have an abnormal upper airway
- PMHx of severe and rapidly progressing croup (requiring nebulised adrenaline or PICU)
- History/suspected inhaled foreign body
- History of anaphylaxis
- History of brittle asthma i.e history of sudden, severe, life threatening attacks
- Previous PICU admission due to respiratory illness
- History/suspicion of neuromuscular or metabolic disease
- Child is outside the age range for pathway

Review date Feb 2027

Mild to Moderate

Saturations in Air	≥95%
Heart rate	12-23 months 96 -145 2-3 years 81-140 4- 6 years – 71-120
Respiration rate	12-23 months 23-48 2-3 years 19-38 4-6 years 15-28
Auscultation	Good air entry, with or without some wheeze
Verbal Child	Able to complete sentences
Work of breathing	Mild suprasternal, intercostal recession/no recession. No grunting No resting stridor
Conscious level	Normal