

Indications for specialist referral in children (BTS/Sign Asthma Guidelines)

- Diagnosis unclear or in doubt
- Symptoms present from birth or perinatal lung problem
- Excessive vomiting or possetting
- Severe upper respiratory tract infection
- Persistent wet or productive cough
- Family history of unusual chest disease
- Failure to thrive
- Nasal polyps
- Unexpected clinical findings eg focal signs, abnormal voice or cry, dysphagia,
- inspiratory stridor
- Failure to respond to conventional treatment (particularly inhaled corticosteroids
- above 400 micrograms per day or frequent use of steroid tablets)
- Parental anxiety or need for reassurance

In children less than 5 years of age where the diagnosis is suspected, there should be a lower threshold for referral to a specialist centre.