

How Do I Manage a Child/Young Person Having an Asthma Attack?

What are you seeing?

Mild/Moderate Symptoms

- Cough
- Wheeze
- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness/pain
- Sore tummy
- Not as active/quiet

Severe/life threatening Symptoms

- Rapid breathing rate
- Heaving upper body
- Inability to talk in full sentences
- Colour change in skin or lips
- Distress/confusion

Actions

- Be calm and reassuring
- Encourage them to sit down and loosen clothing if needed
- Follow the advice in their asthma action plan:
 - If they use a blue inhaler for relief:
 - Give them 2 puffs of the blue inhaler through a spacer, 1 puff at a time. Make sure you shake the inhaler between each puff.
 - Keep doing this every 10 minutes, if there are still symptoms, up to a total of 6 puffs
 - If they use a MART inhaler for relief:
 - Ask them to take 1-2 sucks of their inhaler.
 - Keep doing this every 2-3 mins up to their maximum number of sucks until they feel better
- Encourage a normal breathing rate if they are able.

Actions

- Ask a colleague to DIAL 999 (ambulance) and contact parent/guardian
- Be calm, confident, reassuring
- If they use a blue inhaler for relief:
 - Administer 1 puff of their reliever (blue) inhaler every 30 secs through a spacer
 - Shake the inhaler before each puff
 - Give 1 puff at a time with 10 breaths for each puff and wait for the ambulance to arrive
- If they use a MART inhaler for relief:
 - Ask them to have 1 or 2 sucks of their MART inhaler, as is written in their asthma action plan
 - Even if they have had their maximum number of sucks, they can have this many again while they wait for the ambulance to arrive
 - If they lose consciousness (rare) follow emergency first air protocol

Are they responding?

No

Yes

Actions

- Allow to sit for 15-20 mins observed by a member of staff
- Allow to return to class
- If symptoms return after 4 hours, repeat and ask parent/carer to collect