

Paediatric Fever Advice Leaflet (read in conjunction with medical advice)

Name of Child Age Date / Time advice given

Further advice/Follow up

Name of Professional

How is your child? Traffic light system



Red

- If your child becomes difficult to rouse
- If your child becomes pale and floppy
- If your child is finding it hard to breathe
- If your child has a fit
- If your child develops a rash that does not disappear with pressure (see the 'Tumbler Test' on reverse)

You need urgent help

Please phone 999 or go to the nearest Hospital Emergency (A&E) Department



Amber

- If your child's health gets worse or if you are worried
- If your child is not drinking
- If your child is passing less urine than usual
- If your child seems dehydrated inc: dry mouth, sunken eyes, no tears, sunken fontanelle (soft spot on babies head), drowsiness
- If your child's fever fails to respond to Paracetamol or Ibuprofen as advised by your healthcare professional
- If your child's fever has not resolved by the 5th day

You need to see or speak to a doctor or nurse today

Please phone 111



Green

If none of the above factors are present

Self Care

Using the advice overleaf you can provide the care your child needs at home

Useful numbers

Patient's own GP Surgery (make a note of the number here)

NHS 111: To contact this service simply dial '111' (free from mobiles and landlines)

If you need language support or translation please inform the member of staff you are speaking to.

Most children with a fever do get better very quickly but some children can get worse. You need to regularly check your child and follow the advice given to you by your health care professional.

Practical things you can do to help your child

- Check your child during the night to see if they are getting better
- If a rash appears do the tumbler test (see guidance below)
- If you are concerned that your child is not improving follow the advice on the front of this sheet
- Children with fever should not be under or over dressed
- If your child is hot to touch remove some of their clothes
- Tepid sponging is not recommended for the treatment of fever
- Offer your child regular drinks (where a baby is breastfed the most appropriate fluid is breast milk)
- If your child is due to have immunisations please consult your GP, practice nurse or Health Visitor for advice as there may be no need to delay their appointment
- If you need to keep your child away from nursery or school while they are unwell and have a fever please notify the nursery or school – your health visitor, community nurse or GP will be able to advise you if you are unsure

Using medicines to help

- If your child is distressed or very unwell you may use medicines (paracetamol or ibuprofen) to help them feel more comfortable – however it is not always necessary
- Don't give both medicines (paracetamol and ibuprofen) at the same time
- Use one and if your child has not improved 2-3 hours later you may want to try giving the other medicine
- Please read the instructions on the medicine bottle first for dose and frequency
- Or you could ask your local community pharmacist for more advice about medicines
- Never give aspirin to a child

The Tumbler Test

Do the 'tumbler test' if your child has a rash. Press a glass tumbler firmly against the rash. If you can see the spots through the glass and they do not fade this is called a 'non-blanching rash'. If this rash is present seek medical advice immediately. The rash is harder to see on dark skin so check paler areas, such as palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and tummy.

