

GASTROENTERITIS REFERRAL FROM GENERAL PRACTICE INTO THE CHILDREN'S AMBULATORY CARE EXPERIENCE (ACE) SERVICE

Child aged 1 year to under 6 years who has gastroenteritis, with mild to moderate clinical signs of dehydration



Call children's ACE service on **01274 27 3354**

Be prepared to convey information required on referral proforma including pulse, RR and temperature (if > 39 reconsider diagnosis)



Ensure child has been weighed and has been prescribed oral rehydration therapy and 20ml syringe and parent/carer knows how to administer. If temperature >38C provide bottle for urine collection and testing



Ensure parent/guardian has been given 1) copy of children's ACE service information leaflet 2) verbal safety-net advice and has also consented to share information with ACE 3) patient leaflet for GE and asked to record fluid volumes



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



Additional input given at home visit by ACE team
 Support and encouragement with fluid intake
 Parental confidence-building
 Monitoring effectiveness of treatment
 Education in managing future episodes
 Recognition of dehydration and deterioration
 Check urine sample if temp > 38

	Mild to Moderate
Respiratory Rate	1-2 years- 25-35 2-5 years 20-30
Heart Rate	1-2 years- 100-150 2-5 years- 95-140
Central capillary refill	Less than 2 seconds
Conscious level	Slightly lethargic but rousable to alert and responsive
Urine output	Normal to slightly decreased

Exclusions

- Child: Under 1 year or 6 years and over
- History/Suspicion of:
 - Metabolic, renal or electrolyte disorder
 - Diabetes
 - Complex congenital heart disease
 - Inflammatory bowel disease
 - Stoma
 - Immunodeficiency
 - Suspected surgical abdomen (bilious vomiting, blood in stools, tender/rigid abdomen)