

# Key to symptoms

# Recognising worsening asthma

Most days you should be free of asthma symptoms but triggers may make your asthma worse. Using this diary can help you to identify your triggers, and along with your Asthma Action Plan it will help you to know when to change your usual treatment.

Things to look for include: coughing, wheezing, difficulty breathing, not being able to play like you usually do, waking at night with asthma, and using the reliever more than 2 times per week.

**Tick the boxes on the chart to show how bad your symptoms are, use the key below as a guide:**

Symptom	Well	Worse	Worried	Asthma Emergency
Did you cough today?	No not at all.	Yes I coughed some of the time.	I coughed most of the day & found it hard to breathe.	I'm coughing & finding it very hard to breathe.
Did you wheeze today?	No not at all.	Yes I wheezed some of the time.	I wheezed often during the day & found it hard to breathe.	I'm wheezing & finding it very hard to breathe.
Did your asthma affect normal activity?	No not at all.	Just when I got excited.	I couldn't play or do things like I usually do.	I'm distressed. Gasping for breath. I'm pale and quiet
Did your asthma wake you up last night?	No I slept well.	Yes for some of the night.	Yes for most of the night.	My asthma symptoms are really bad and I can't sleep
How many doses of reliever did you take?	None.	I needed two puffs.	I needed 6 puffs.	My reliever isn't working



## Worse

- I cough or wheeze and it's hard to breathe, or
- I'm waking at night because of my asthma, or
- I cough or wheeze when I play, or
- I need my reliever puffer to control my asthma more than 2 times per week



## Worried

- My reliever puffer isn't helping, or
- I'm finding it hard to breathe, or
- I'm breathing hard and fast, or
- I'm sucking in around my ribs/throat, you may need to look under my shirt, or
- I'm looking pale or blue



- Sit me down and try to stay calm
- Give me 6 puffs of reliever through a spacer, taking 6 breaths for each puff
- **If I don't start to improve I need help now**



## Emergency

**DIAL 111 and ask for an ambulance WHILE YOU'RE WAITING:**

- Try to stay calm and keep me sitting upright
- Give 6 puffs of reliever through a spacer every 6 minutes with 6 breaths for each puff until help arrives



# Child Asthma Symptom Diary



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Better breathing, better living

