

**Features of moderate to life-threatening asthma attacks<sup>6</sup>**

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**Life-threatening asthma**

- $\text{SpO}_2 < 92\%$
- Peak expiratory flow  $< 33\%$  best or predicted (or unable to carry out measurement)
- Poor respiratory effort
- Silent chest
- Cyanosis
- Exhaustion
- Confusion
- Hypotension

**Severe attack**

- Unable to complete sentences
- $\text{SpO}_2 < 92\%$
- Peak expiratory flow 33-50% best or predicted
- Heart rate  $> 125/\text{min}$  in children aged  $> 5$  years ( $> 140/\text{min}$  in children aged 1-5 years)
- Respiratory rate  $> 30/\text{min}$  in children aged  $> 5$  years ( $> 40/\text{min}$  in children aged 1-5 years)
- Noticeable recession

**Moderate attack**

- Able to talk in sentences
- $\text{SpO}_2 \geq 92\%$
- Peak expiratory flow  $\geq 50\%$  best or predicted
- Heart rate  $\leq 125/\text{min}$  in children aged  $> 5$  years ( $\leq 140/\text{min}$  in children aged 1-5 years)
- Respiratory rate  $\leq 30/\text{min}$  in children aged  $> 5$  years ( $\leq 40/\text{min}$  in children aged 1-5 years)
- Mild-moderate recession and wheeze