Table 1

 \bullet SpO₂ \geq 92%

severe asthma

Moderate asthma

Increasing symptoms No features of acute

Adapted from the BTS/SIGN guideline4

Clinical assessment of acute asthma severity

Acute severe asthma

Peak flow > 50-75% best or predicted Peak flow 33-50% best or predicted SpO_a ≥ 92%

■ Respiration ≥ 25 per minute

in one breath

■ Heart rate ≥ 110 beats per minute Cannot complete a sentence

● SpO₂ < 92%

of consciousness

Any one of:

 Silent chest, cyanosis, poor respiratory effort

Exhaustion, altered level

Life-threatening asthma

Peak flow < 33% best or predicted

Arrhythmia, hypotension