

**BRITISH PAEDIATRIC SURVEILLANCE UNIT**  
Reporting Instructions & Case Definitions – MARCH 2024

When reporting a case **PLEASE** keep details of patients for reference.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Please inform the office of retirements or circumstances that will affect your ability to return the orange card. Complete the report card by ticking "nothing to report" or indicating the number of cases of the listed conditions seen in the month specified.

## 1. Near Fatal Asthma

**Case definition:** Cases will be defined as **(1) or (2) or (3)**

1. Any child aged 5-15 years surviving\* an acute episode of asthma, who when presenting self-ventilating with severe dyspnoea (e.g. inability to speak) and **all** the following features:
  - a. Pulse oxygen saturation below 92% despite maximal oxygen therapy (i.e. 10-15l/min oxygen flow via non-rebreather mask) during acute presentation **and**
  - b. pH  $\leq$  7.2 and/or pCO<sub>2</sub>  $\geq$  60mmHg or 8kPa **and**
  - c. Escalation to use of intravenous bronchodilator infusion
2. Any child aged 5-15 years surviving\* an acute episode of asthma, who had a respiratory arrest and/or required cardiopulmonary resuscitation as part of their presentation.
3. Any child age 5-15 years surviving\* an acute episode of asthma for which he/she was invasively ventilated.

\*surviving to hospital discharge

**Reporting instructions:** Please report any case that meets the above definition. Clinicians are encouraged to report the event even if final outcome is not yet known or the patient is still receiving ongoing care in hospital.

## 2. Congenital and Hospitalised Neonatal Varicella

**Case definition for Fetal varicella syndrome:**

- 1a) Any stillborn or liveborn infant who, in the opinion of the notifying paediatrician, has confirmed or suspected fetal varicella syndrome, with or without congenital deformities based on history, clinical and/or laboratory findings.
- 1b) Any infant that presents with herpes zoster (shingles) in the first year of life (based on clinical and laboratory findings)
- 1c) Spontaneous abortion or termination of pregnancy following varicella in pregnancy.

**Case definition for Neonatal varicella syndrome:**

- 1) Chicken pox in an infant less than 1 month of age, regardless of gestational age at birth, based on history, clinical findings and/or laboratory findings.