



## Pediatric Asthma

Asthma in the pediatric population is a leading cause for ER visits as well as hospitalizations in the US. Asthma in children can be seen in several different ways commonly including coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath. Not every child diagnosed with asthma will have severe symptoms requiring ER visits, hospitalizations, or daily medication for treatment. Some children will only require medications prior to activities or when they have cold symptoms.



# Pediatric asthma

## What is asthma?

Asthma is a disease of the airway that cannot be cured, but you can get better control of your child's asthma with the right medication, education, and care team. Your care team could include a provider (doctor or nurse practitioner), nurse, respiratory therapist, and other support staff.

## Risk factors for asthma

Asthma is most common in children who have a family history of (including parents, grandparents, siblings) asthma, allergies, or eczema. Other risk factors include prematurity at birth requiring hospitalization and/or oxygen use and certain viral illnesses in infancy (less than 1 year of age).

## Medications used for treatment of asthma

The most common include inhaled medications given either by nebulizer or metered dose inhaler (MDI).

## Signs of respiratory distress

If your child is unable to perform usual activities such as walking stairs, dressing, eating, or playing. You may also see their skin sucking in around collar bones, under rib cage, or between ribs.

## Signs of emergency: call 911 immediately

Your child is unable to speak in full sentences and/or there's a color change in their lips, skin, and/or tongue.

For more information, visit  
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