Navigating uncertain illness trajectories for young children with serious infectious illness: a modified grounded theory study.

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Figure 6 One child’s trajectory from onset of illness to teaching hospital admission

Under 6 months in a family with four other children, RSV bronchiolitis and influenza A

He then started to choke during his coughing bouts and couldn’t take a breath. Sometimes he would go red and then worryingly at times, blue. This prompted us to take him to the GP.

He had been coughing for a week

Unfortunately, he didn’t do this (cooght) in front of the GP. We went home and carried on then went back again.

It was extremely worrying but being sent back home by the GP again made us think we are supposed to deem this normal.

The coughing was worsening and he was going blue, so we went back to the GP, but sent home again as he wasn’t too bad when we got there.

Finally, my wife’s motherly instincts convinced her that this is not normal, and friends and family advised us to go to A&E.

There was no coughing during the consultation, the Doctor said he is very alert and his SATS seem fine, so we were sent home.

The majority of medical advice basically suggested that we were panicking, first time parents and the situation was not so bad. ...

I was quite convinced... and even said to my wife that look all the doctors have said so and maybe there’s no need to go to the doctor’s or hospital again. Then there was more coughing and choking and eventually we took him again.

Whilst in A&E my son had a bad episode and one of the nurses saw him and realised it was bad.

When they got to the CAU my son had another bad episode of coughing and choking unable to breath and when one of the senior nurses saw him, she panicked and called for help and rushed him into a room.

We then ended up in intensive care.