

# Short Cases in Paediatrics

## Introduction

Paediatric consultations can be challenging in Primary Care. Children frequently present in the early stages of an illness, with undifferentiated symptoms such as fatigue, fever and poorly localised pain. An added dimension is the need to ensure that children who are competent to do so are involved in decisions about their care, alongside their parent or carer. Other important aspects are the social and cultural context of the consultation and its setting, with remote consultations becoming increasingly common.

When faced with an unwell child or young person, one of the Primary Care clinician's priorities will be to decide if the patient is safe to be managed in the community or whether they risk clinical deterioration and should be referred to Secondary Care for further assessment and treatment. While clinical judgement is the cornerstone of this decision, several Paediatric clinical assessment tools have been produced to support this process. The module includes examples of some widely used Paediatric structured assessment tools and their use in supporting decision making in Primary Care.

The clinical presentations featured in this module were selected by a discussion group of Primary Care clinicians as being their main areas of clinical uncertainty in Paediatrics. The cases are not intended to be a comprehensive guide to management but are intended to stimulate discussion around clinicians' own experiences of diagnosing and managing children's illnesses.

### Learning outcomes:

- Assessment of children presenting with fever, fatigue, breathing difficulties, headache and abdominal pain.
- How structured assessment tools can support clinical decision making.
- Good clinical practice in paediatric 'face-face' and remote consultations.
- Benefits and limitations of remote consultations.
- Awareness of cultural and psychosocial factors in Paediatric consultations.