Overview
The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section on Emergency Medicine (SOEM) bronchiolitis algorithm is designed as an easy-to-follow tool to help clinicians care for infants with bronchiolitis in the acute care setting. This algorithm incorporates AAP recommendations for bronchiolitis with the goal of limiting unnecessary testing and therapies in this self-limited illness, while also mentioning newer therapies that sometimes need to be considered in severe and/or undifferentiated presentation in the emergency department (ED). The algorithm also assists the practitioner with disposition from the ED.

Reference Material – AAP Bronchiolitis Guideline
http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/134/5/e1474

Scope
Does not apply if severe or atypical presentation.

Inclusion Criteria
Children, 1-12 months of age, presenting with symptoms and signs suggestive of a clinical diagnosis of bronchiolitis, such as upper respiratory tract infection such as rhinitis and coughing, progressing to lower respiratory symptoms including wheezing, crackles, and/or tachypnea that may result in difficulty breathing and/or difficulty feeding.

Exclusion Criteria
Full-term infants that are less than 28 days old or premature infants that are less than 48 weeks post-conception. Patients with hemodynamically significant cardiac or significant pulmonary disease (such as bronchopulmonary dysplasia or asthma) or other major chronic conditions (such as immunodeficiency and neuromuscular disease).