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Reference number: UK/CC-NHS/0818/0005a Date of preparation: August 2018.

Produced and distributed by RB with the support of GRIP, which was convened and funded by RB.

The Global Respiratory Infection Partnership (GRIP) is an international group of healthcare professionals committed to reducing inappropriate antibiotic use for respiratory tract infections in primary care and the wider community, helping to counteract antibiotic resistance.



ANTIBIOTICS NEED YOU!

Fight antibiotic resistance one patient at a time

Help patients with upper respiratory tract infections get symptomatic relief – without contributing to antibiotic overuse and resistance

> Reckitt Benckiser has funded and supported the development of this material, including review of content for code compliance. The views and opinions represent those of the Global Respiratory Infection Partnership (GRIP) and are not necessarily the views of Reckitt Benckiser as the sponsor.





ANTIBIOTICS ARE NOT NEEDED FOR MOST UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS (URTIS)

- The majority of respiratory tract infections are viral, non-serious and self-limiting,¹⁻⁶ and do not need antibiotics
- Antibiotics do not work against viruses⁷
- Although up to 8 out of 10 sore throats are caused by viruses,¹ antibiotics are frequently prescribed^{4,8,9}
- Misuse and overuse of antibiotics is reducing their ability to cure infections and save lives,^{10,11} with antibiotic resistance developing^{10,12,13} and spreading¹⁴ in the community
- Prescribers are encouraged to limit antibiotic treatment for URTIs to patients with a high risk of complications and those who are very unwell¹⁵
 - High-risk indicators include, but are not limited to, the elderly (aged over 65 years), frail or immunocompromised patients, young children under 2 years or born prematurely, patients with pre-existing conditions and other specific populations^{15,16}
 - For sore throat it can be challenging to distinguish between a viral and streptococcal bacterial infection based on signs and symptoms,¹⁷ and antibiotics may be considered for patients with three or more Centor criteria¹⁸

THE LIKELIHOOD OF STREP THROAT CAN BE ESTIMATED USING MODIFIED CENTOR CRITERIA,¹⁸⁻²⁰ WITH ANTIBIOTICS CONSIDERED FOR PATIENTS WITH THREE OR MORE CENTOR CRITERIA¹⁸



MEET PATIENT NEEDS

- Most patients presenting with URTIs are not seeking antibiotics^{21,22}
- Patients primarily want to obtain information and pain relief^{21,22}
- Providing written information in addition to personal advice can reduce antibiotic use while reassuring patients²³

The information sheets in this pad are designed to help doctors provide the reassurance and symptom relief that the patient needs:

- They explain why antibiotics should not be taken for most URTIs
- They facilitate tailored recommendations for symptomatic treatment
- They give patients an idea of how long their symptoms could last and when to return for more advice







ANTIBIOTICS DON'T WORK FOR MOST UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS

Name:

Date:

Your doctor has diagnosed the following condition(s)/symptom(s), which usually last about 1–2 weeks: $^{15,24-28}$



- Infections of the upper respiratory tract can affect your nose, sinuses, tonsils, throat, ears and upper chest⁵
- In most cases the infection is due to a virus⁵ and symptoms will get better by themselves^{15,24}
- Most upper respiratory tract infections start to clear up within a few days but your symptoms may last up to 1 week or more^{15,24-28}

YOUR DOCTOR DOESN'T THINK AN ANTIBIOTIC WILL HELP YOUR SYMPTOMS ON THIS OCCASION

Antibiotics don't work against viruses⁷ and don't have any direct pain-relieving effects. They may also cause side effects^{15,29}

- When you take antibiotics, bacteria in your body can become resistant to the antibiotic^{10,11}
- These antibiotic-resistant bacteria can stay in your body for up to 1 year after taking antibiotics.³⁰ The resistant bacteria can be spread¹⁴ to family and friends, making it harder to treat them
- Your symptoms can be treated with a symptomatic relief product that will help you feel better while you recover





YOU CAN FEEL BETTER WITHOUT ANTIBIOTICS

Your doctor recommends the following treatments to help relieve your symptoms:

Infection	Medicines that your doctor has recommended for you	Tick
Sore throat/tonsillitis	Anti-inflammatory lozenge (flurbiprofen) Anti-inflammatory spray (flurbiprofen) Medicated lozenge (local anaesthetic, antiseptic) Pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen tablets)	
Common cold	Pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen tablets) Tablets containing decongestant or antihistamine Decongestant nasal spray	
Flu	Pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen tablets) Tablets containing a decongestant or antihistamine Decongestant nasal spray	
Runny nose/blocked nose	Decongestant nasal spray Tablets containing a decongestant or antihistamine	
Sinusitis	Corticosteroid nasal spray Pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen tablets) Tablets containing a decongestant or antihistamine	
Earache	Pain relief (paracetamol or ibuprofen tablets) Medicated ear drops (local anaesthetic)	
Dry, tickly cough	Cough suppressant (dextromethorphan)	

Please take this information sheet to a pharmacy, where the pharmacist can advise you on the best treatment for your needs. Always use medicines as directed by your doctor, pharmacist or medicine package instructions. If your symptoms last longer than expected, do not improve or if you develop new symptoms, please phone or visit your doctor for more advice

Signed: Practice stamp:

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