

NICE antimicrobial prescribing guidance (21 guidelines)

Acute otitis media

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Otitis media (acute): antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; 2022. (NICE NG91). [Issued March 2018; last updated March 2022]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng91>

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng91/resources/visual-summary-pdf-4787282702>

Cochrane Reviews cited (7):

Spurling GKP, Del Mar CB, Dooley L, Clark J, Askew DA. **Delayed antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD004417. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004417.pub5
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004417.pub5/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Mulhem E. “For people with respiratory infection, how do delayed compare with immediate or no antibiotic prescriptions?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 23 September 2019. Web. 11 July 2022.
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[Guideline cited version: Issue 4, 2013]

Sjoukes A, Venekamp RP, van de Pol AC, Hay AD, Little P, Schilder AGM, Damoiseaux RAMJ. **Paracetamol (acetaminophen) or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, alone or combined, for pain relief in acute otitis media in children**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2016, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD011534. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD011534.pub2
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Venekamp RP, Sanders SL, Glasziou PP, Del Mar CB, Rovers MM. **Antibiotics for acute otitis media in children**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD000219. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000219.pub4.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000219.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Gupta A. “In children with acute otitis media, what are the effects of antibiotics?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 26 October 2017. Web. 11 July 2022.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.1881/full>

Thanaviratananich S, Laopaiboon M, Vatanasapt P. **Once or twice daily versus three times daily amoxicillin with or without clavulanate for the treatment of acute otitis media**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD004975. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004975.pub3
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Coleman C, Moore M. **Decongestants and antihistamines for acute otitis media in children.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD001727. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001727.pub5 [now withdrawn]
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001727.pub5/full>

[Guideline cited version: Issue 3, 2008]

Kozyrskyj AL, Klassen TP, Moffatt M, Harvey K. **Short-course antibiotics for acute otitis media.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD001095. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001095.pub2
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001095.pub2/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Li S-TT. “In children with acute otitis media, what are the effects of short-course antibiotics?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 10 September 2014. Web. 11 July 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.367/full>

Foxlee R, Johansson AC, Wejfalk J, Dooley L, Del Mar CB. **Topical analgesia for acute otitis media.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD005657. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005657.pub2
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005657.pub2/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Li S-TT. “In children and adolescents with acute otitis media, how do topical anaesthetic ear drops affect outcomes?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 7 May 2014. Web. 11 July 2022.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.81/full>

Clostridioides difficile infection

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Clostridioides difficile infection: antimicrobial prescribing.* London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; July 2021. (NICE NG199). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199>

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng199/resources/visual-summary-pdf-9194639149>

Cochrane Reviews cited (3):

Goldenberg JZ, Yap C, Lytvyn L, Lo CKF, Beardsley J, Mertz D, Johnston BC. **Probiotics for the prevention of Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea in adults and children.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD006095. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006095.pub4
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006095.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Rodrigo C. “What are the effects of probiotics for adults and children being treated with antibiotics?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 2 July 2018. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.2047/full>

Nelson RL, Suda KJ, Evans CT. **Antibiotic treatment for Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhoea in adults.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD004610. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004610.pub5
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004610.pub5/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Conterno LO. “How does vancomycin compare with other antibiotics for treatment of *Clostridium difficile*-associated diarrhoea?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 9 October 2018. Web. 29 September 2022.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.1686/full>

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Eczema and other common skin conditions
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National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Secondary bacterial infection of eczema and other common skin conditions: antimicrobial prescribing.* London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; March 2021. (NICE NG190). Available from:
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Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng190/resources/visual-summary-pdf-9018190045>

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Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Tort S, Fernandez-Penas P. “What are the effects of adjunct topical antibiotics for people with atopic dermatitis being treated with topical steroids?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 26 February 2020. Web. 29 September 2022.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.2892/full>

Human and animal bites

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Human and animal bites: antimicrobial prescribing.* London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; November 2020. (NICE NG184). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng184>

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng184/resources/visual-summary-pdf-8897023117>

Cochrane Reviews cited (1):

Medeiros IM, Saconato H. **Antibiotic prophylaxis for mammalian bites**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2001, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD001738. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001738
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001738/full>

Insect bites and stings

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Insect bites and stings: antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; November 2020. (NICE NG182). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng182>

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Impetigo

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Impetigo: antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; February 2020. (NICE NG153). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng153>

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Cochrane Reviews cited (1):

Koning S, van der Sande R, Verhagen AP, van Suijlekom-Smit LWA, Morris AD, Butler CC, Berger M, van der Wouden JC. **Interventions for impetigo**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2012, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003261. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003261.pub3.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD003261.pub3/full>

Leg ulcer infection

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Leg ulcer infection: antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; February 2020. (NICE NG152). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng152>

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O'Meara S, Al-Kurdi D, Ologun Y, Ovington LG, Martyn-St James M, Richardson R. **Antibiotics and antiseptics for venous leg ulcers**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2014, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD003557. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003557.pub5
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD003557.pub5/full>

Diabetic foot problems

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; October 2019.

(NICE NG19). [Issued August 2015; last updated October 2019; last reviewed October 2021; **being updated**, publication due **January 2023**]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng19>

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<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng19/resources/visual-summary-pdf-6954030109>

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Cellulitis and erysipelas

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Cellulitis and erysipelas: antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; September 2019. (NICE NG141). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng141>

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Dalal A, Eskin-Schwartz M, Mimouni D, Ray S, Days W, Hodak E, Leibovici L, Paul M. **Interventions for the prevention of recurrent erysipelas and cellulitis**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD009758. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009758.pub2

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van Zuuren EJ. “Which antibiotic is the most effective in people with cellulitis and erysipelas?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 22 August 2016. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.490/full>

Community-acquired pneumonia

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; September 2019. (NICE NG138). [Issued September 2019; last reviewed July 2022; **being updated**; expected publication date March 2024]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng138>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; expected publication date: **March 2024**). (**Guideline in Development** GID-NG10357). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10357>

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Pakhale S, Mulpuru S, Verheij TJM, Kochen MM, Rohde GGU, Bjerre LM. **Antibiotics for community-acquired pneumonia in adult outpatients**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2014, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD002109. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD002109.pub4. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD002109.pub4/full>

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Martin-Lopez JE. “How do different antibiotics compare for improving outcomes in adult outpatients with community-acquired pneumonia?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 23 September 2019. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.1886/full>

Lodha R, Kabra SK, Pandey RM. **Antibiotics for community-acquired pneumonia in children**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD004874. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004874.pub4 <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004874.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answers:

Singh M. “In children with community-acquired pneumonia in the ambulatory setting, what are the effects of oral antibiotics?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 28 August 2014. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.418/full>

Singh M. “In children admitted to hospital with community-acquired pneumonia, how do different antibiotics compare with each other?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 1 September 2014. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.316/full>

Eliakim-Raz N, Robenshtok E, Shefet D, Gafter-Gvili A, Vidal L, Paul M, Leibovici L. **Empiric antibiotic coverage of atypical pathogens for community-acquired pneumonia in hospitalized adults**. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2012, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD004418. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004418.pub4 <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004418.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Newman DH. “In hospitalized adults with community-acquired pneumonia, is there randomized controlled trial evidence to support the use of empiric atypical antibiotic coverage over typical antibiotic coverage?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 13 August 2014. Web. 29 September 2022.

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Haider BA, Lassi ZS, Bhutta ZA. **Short-course versus long-course antibiotic therapy for non-severe community-acquired pneumonia in children aged 2 months to 59 months.**

Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2008, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD005976. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005976.pub2.

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD005976.pub2/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Edwards DS. “In children aged 2 months to 5 years with non-severe community-acquired pneumonia, how does short-course compare with long-course antibiotic therapy at improving outcomes?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 5 December 2012. Web. 29 September 2022.

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.12/full>

Hospital-acquired pneumonia

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Pneumonia (hospital-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; September 2019. (NICE NG139). [Issued September 2019; last reviewed July 2022; **being updated**, expected publication date: March 2024]. Available from:

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Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ng10357>

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng139/resources/visual-summary-pdf-6903414829>

Acute cough

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Cough (acute): antimicrobial prescribing*. London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; February 2019. (NICE NG120). Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng120>

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Smith SM, Fahey T, Smucny J, Becker LA. **Antibiotics for acute bronchitis.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD000245. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000245.pub4

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD000245.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Gupta A. "In people with acute bronchitis, is there randomized controlled trial evidence to support the use of antibiotics?" Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 11 August 2017. Web. 29 September 2022.

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Related Cochrane Podcast:

Smith S. Antibiotics for acute bronchitis. Cochrane Library, Cochrane Podcast, 26 February 2018. Web. 29 September 2022.

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Becker LA, Hom J, Villasis-Keever M, van der Wouden JC. **Beta2-agonists for acute cough or a clinical diagnosis of acute bronchitis.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD001726. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001726.pub5

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001726.pub5/full>

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Abyad A. "In children with acute cough or clinically diagnosed bronchitis who do not have any other underlying pulmonary disease or acute respiratory illness, what are the benefits and harms of beta2-agonists?" Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 10 February 2016. Web. 29 September 2022.

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Abyad A. "In adults with acute bronchitis who do not have any other underlying pulmonary disease or acute respiratory illness, what are the benefits and harms of beta2-agonists?" Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 17 February 2016. Web. 29 September 2022.

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.1135/full>

Smith SM, Schroeder K, Fahey T. **Over-the-counter (OTC) medications for acute cough in children and adults in community settings.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2014, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD001831. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001831.pub5

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001831.pub5/full>

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Smith S. Over-the-counter (OTC) medications for acute cough in children and adults in community settings. Cochrane Library, Cochrane Podcast, 1 January 2015. Web. 29 September 2022.

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Chalumeau M, Duijvestijn YCM. **Acetylcysteine and carbocysteine for acute upper and lower respiratory tract infections in paediatric patients without chronic bronchopulmonary disease.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 5. Art. No.: CD003124. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003124.pub4

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD003124.pub4/full>

Spurling GKP, Del Mar CB, Dooley L, Clark J, Askew DA. **Delayed antibiotic prescriptions for respiratory infections.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017,

Issue 9. Art. No.: CD004417. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004417.pub5
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004417.pub5/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Mulhem E. “For people with respiratory infection, how do delayed compare with immediate or no antibiotic prescriptions?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 23 September 2019. Web. 29 September 2022.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.2077/full>

Jiang L, Li K, Wu T. **Chinese medicinal herbs for acute bronchitis.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2012, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD004560. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004560.pub4
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004560.pub4/full>

Marchant JM, Petsky HL, Morris PS, Chang AB. **Antibiotics for prolonged wet cough in children.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2018, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD004822. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004822.pub3
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De Sutter AIM, Eriksson L, van Driel ML. **Oral antihistamine-decongestant-analgesic combinations for the common cold.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2022, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD004976. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004976.pub4
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD004976.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Abyad A. “What are the effects of combination tablets containing an antihistamine, a decongestant, and an analgesic in people with the common cold?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 26 April 2022. Web. 29 September 2022.
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[Guideline cited version: Issue 2, 2012]

Kim SY, Chang YJ, Cho HM, Hwang YW, Moon YS. **Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs for the common cold.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD006362. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006362.pub4
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD006362.pub4/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Brown SR. “Is there randomized controlled trial evidence to support the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in people with the common cold?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 8 February 2016. Web. 29 September 2022.
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[Guideline cited version: Issue 6, 2013]

Alves Galvão MG, Rocha Crispino Santos MA, Alves da Cunha AJL. **Antibiotics for preventing suppurative complications from undifferentiated acute respiratory**

infections in children under five years of age. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2016, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD007880. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD007880.pub3
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD007880.pub3/full>

Related Cochrane Clinical Answer:

Bunt C. “In children under five years of age, can antibiotics help to prevent suppurative complications from undifferentiated acute respiratory infections?”
Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 29 July 2016. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.1260/full>

[Guideline cited version: Issue 3, 2009]

Acute exacerbation of bronchiectasis (non-cystic fibrosis)

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Bronchiectasis (non-cystic fibrosis), acute exacerbation: antimicrobial prescribing.* London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; September 2019. (NICE NG117). [Issued December 2018; last updated September 2019]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng117>.

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng117/resources/visual-summary-pdf-6606081325>

Cochrane Reviews cited (2):

Hnin K, Nguyen C, Carson-Chahhoud KV, Evans DJ, Greenstone M, Smith BJ. **Prolonged antibiotics for non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis in children and adults.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD001392. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001392.pub3.
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD001392.pub3/full>

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Lai NM. “Is there randomized controlled trial evidence to support the use of prolonged antibiotics in people with non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis?”
Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 18 July 2016. Web. 29 September 2022. <https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cca/doi/10.1002/cca.950/full>

Wurzel D, Marchant JM, Yerkovich ST, Upham JW, Masters IB, Chang AB. **Short courses of antibiotics for children and adults with bronchiectasis.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2011, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD008695. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD008695.pub2
<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD008695.pub2/full>

Acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. *Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (acute exacerbation): antimicrobial prescribing.* London: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; September 2019. (NICE NG114). [Issued December 2018; last updated September 2019]. Available from: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng114>

Visual summary: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng114/resources/guide-to-resources-pdf-6602624893>

Cochrane Reviews cited (1):

Vollenweider DJ, Frei A, Steurer-Stey CA, Garcia-Aymerich J, Puhan MA. **Antibiotics for exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.** *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2018, Issue 10. Art. No.: CD010257. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD010257.pub2

<https://www.cochranelibrary.com/cdsr/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD010257.pub2/full>

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Gupta A. “How do antibiotics compare with placebo in outpatients with exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?” Cochrane Library, Cochrane Clinical Answer, 9 January 2019. Web. 29 September 2022.

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