

## Pharyngitis / Sore Throat / Tonsillitis Antibiotic Treatment Table

**Consider no antibiotic or delayed antibiotic strategy.**

**Use FEVERPAIN Score to identify those most likely to benefit from antibiotics.**

Score 0-1: Do not offer antibiotic

Score 2-3: Offer delayed antibiotic

Score 4-5: Offer immediate antibiotic prescription

**If antibiotics deemed clinically indicated:**

Drug	Dose	Duration	Notes
<b>Adults: 1st choice options</b>			
Phenoxymethylpenicillin	666mg every 6 hours (Calvepen®)  OR 500mg every 6 hours (Kopen®)	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy. Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration. To optimise absorption, take on empty stomach.
<b>Adults: 2nd choice options</b>			
Amoxicillin	500mg every 8 hours	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy. Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration.
Cefalexin	500mg every 6 hours	5 days	Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration. Cephalosporins should not be used in severe penicillin allergy.

Clarithromycin	500mg every 12 hours	5 days	Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration. Macrolides should be used with caution in pregnancy. Clarithromycin suitable only in 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> trimester in pregnancy. Alternative macrolide for all trimesters of pregnancy: Azithromycin 500mg stat then 250mg every 24 hours from Day 2 to Day 5.
<b>Children: 1st choice options</b>			
Phenoxymethylpenicillin suspension	<a href="#">See Phenoxymethylpenicillin dosing for children</a>	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy. Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration. To optimise absorption, take on empty stomach.
<b>Children: 2nd choice options</b>			
Amoxicillin suspension	<a href="#">See Amoxicillin dosing for children</a>	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy. Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration.
Cefalexin suspension	<a href="#">See Cefalexin dosing for children</a>	5 days	Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration. Cephalosporins should not be used in severe penicillin allergy.
Clarithromycin suspension	<a href="#">See Clarithromycin dosing for children</a>	5 days	Depending on clinical response, duration can be extended to 10 days in total. If scarlet fever is suspected it is advisable to treat for 10 days duration.