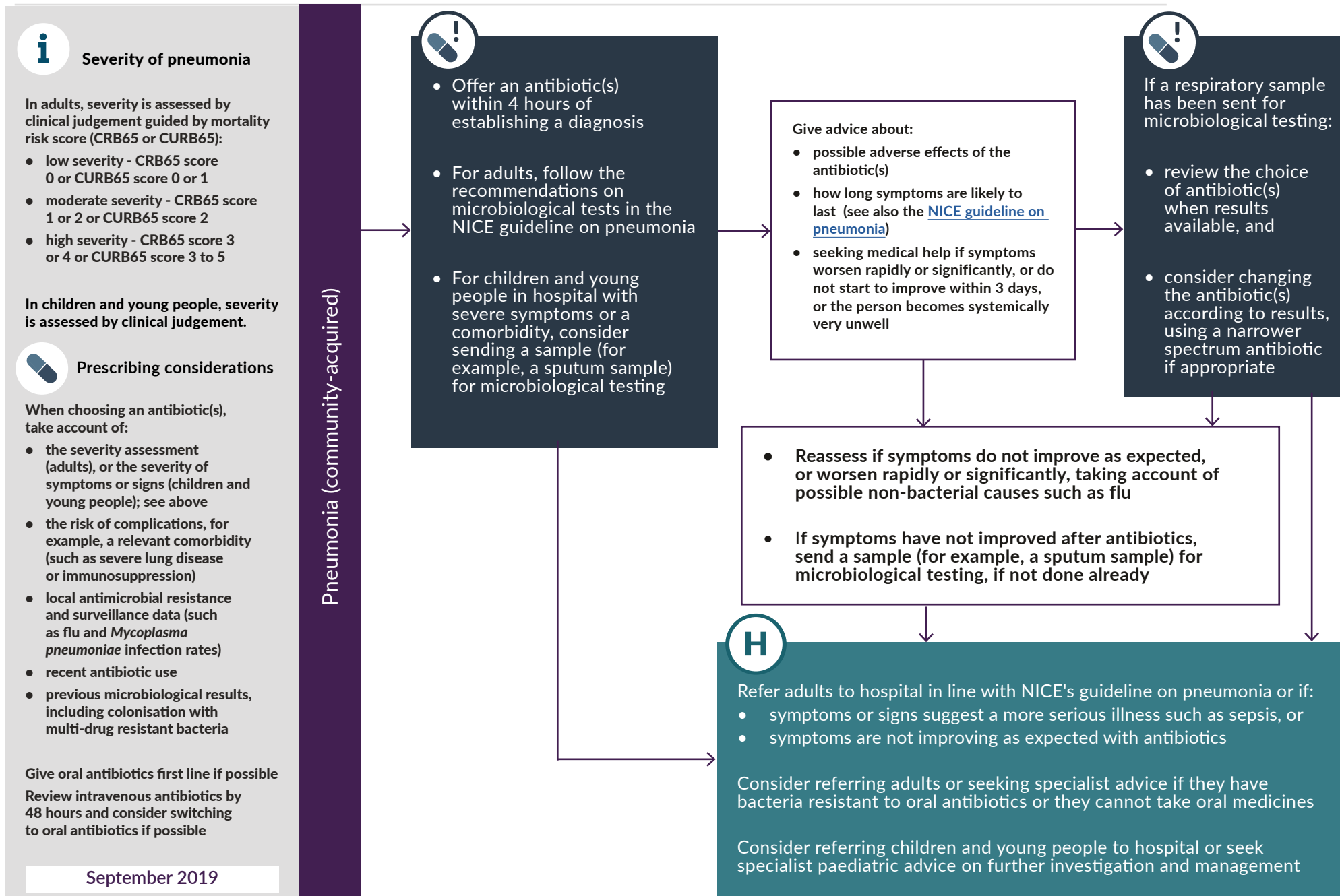


# Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing



# Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing

## Choice of antibiotic: adults aged 18 years and over

Antibiotic <sup>1</sup>	Dosage and course length <sup>2</sup>
First choice oral antibiotic if low severity (based on clinical judgement and guided by CRB65 score 0 or CURB65 score 0 or 1) <sup>3</sup>	
Amoxicillin	500 mg three times a day (higher doses can be used - see BNF) for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Alternative oral antibiotics if low severity, for penicillin allergy or if amoxicillin unsuitable (for example, atypical pathogens suspected <sup>5</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>	
Doxycycline	200 mg on first day, then 100 mg once a day for 4 days (5-day course in total) <sup>4</sup>
Clarithromycin	500 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Erythromycin (in pregnancy)	500 mg four times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
First choice oral antibiotics if moderate severity (based on clinical judgement and guided by CRB65 score 1 or 2, or CURB65 score 2); guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup>	
Amoxicillin <b>with (if atypical pathogens suspected<sup>5</sup>):</b>	500 mg three times a day (higher doses can be used - see BNF) for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Clarithromycin <sup>6</sup> or	500 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Erythromycin <sup>6</sup> (in pregnancy)	500 mg four times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Alternative oral antibiotics if moderate severity, for penicillin allergy; guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup>	
Doxycycline	200 mg on first day, then 100 mg once a day for 4 days (5-day course in total) <sup>4</sup>
Clarithromycin	500 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
First choice antibiotics if high severity (based on clinical judgement and guided by CRB65 score 3 or 4, or CURB65 score 3 to 5); guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup>	
Co amoxiclav <b>with:</b>	500/125 mg three times a day orally or 1.2 g three times a day IV <sup>7</sup> for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Clarithromycin or	500 mg twice a day orally or IV <sup>7</sup> for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Erythromycin (in pregnancy)	500 mg four times a day orally for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Alternative antibiotic if high severity, for penicillin allergy; guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup>	
Levofloxacin <sup>8</sup> (consider safety issues)	500 mg twice a day orally or IV <sup>7</sup> for 5 days <sup>4</sup>

Consult local microbiologist if fluoroquinolone not appropriate

<sup>1</sup>See [BNF](#) for appropriate use and dosing in specific populations, for example, hepatic impairment, renal impairment, pregnancy and breast-feeding, and administering intravenous (or, where appropriate, intramuscular) antibiotics.

<sup>2</sup>Oral doses are for immediate-release medicines.

<sup>3</sup>Give oral antibiotics first-line if the person can take oral medicines, and the severity of their condition does not require intravenous antibiotics.

<sup>4</sup>Stop antibiotic treatment after 5 days unless microbiological results suggest a longer course is needed or the person is not clinically stable (fever in the past 48 hours, or more than 1 sign of clinical instability [systolic BP <90 mm Hg, heart rate >100/min, respiratory rate >24/min, arterial oxygen saturation <90% or PaO<sub>2</sub> <60 mmHg in room air]).

<sup>5</sup>*Mycoplasma pneumoniae* infection occurs in outbreaks approximately every 4 years.

<sup>6</sup>Consider adding a macrolide to amoxicillin if atypical pathogens suspected. Review when microbiological results available.

<sup>7</sup>Review intravenous antibiotics by 48 hours and consider switching to oral antibiotics if possible.

<sup>8</sup>See [MHRA](#) advice for restrictions and precautions for using fluoroquinolones due to very rare reports of disabling and potentially long-lasting or irreversible side effects affecting musculo-skeletal and nervous systems. Warnings include stopping treatment at first signs of a serious adverse reaction (such as tendonitis), prescribing with special caution in people over 60 years and avoiding coadministration with a corticosteroid (March 2019).

C(U)RB65, confusion, (urea >7 mmol/l), respiratory rate ≥ 30/min, low systolic [ $<90$  mm Hg] or diastolic [ $\leq 60$  mm Hg] BP, age ≥65; IV, intravenous; PaO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of oxygen

# Pneumonia (community-acquired): antimicrobial prescribing

Choice of antibiotic: children and young people over 1 month and under 18 years

Antibiotic <sup>1</sup>	Dosage and course length <sup>2</sup>
First choice oral antibiotic if non-severe symptoms or signs (based on clinical judgement) <sup>3</sup>	
Amoxicillin	1 to 11 months, 125 mg three times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 1 to 4 years, 250 mg three times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 5 to 17 years, 500 mg three times a day for 5 days (higher doses can be used for all ages - see BNFC) <sup>4</sup>
Alternative oral antibiotics if non-severe symptoms or signs (based on clinical judgement), for penicillin allergy or if amoxicillin unsuitable (for example, atypical pathogens suspected <sup>5</sup> ) <sup>3</sup>	
Clarithromycin	1 month to 11 years: Under 8 kg, 7.5 mg/kg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 8 to 11 kg, 62.5 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 12 to 19 kg, 125 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 20 to 29 kg, 187.5 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 30 to 40 kg, 250 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 12 to 17 years: 250 mg to 500 mg twice a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Erythromycin (in pregnancy)	8 to 17 years, 250 mg to 500 mg four times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Doxycycline <sup>6</sup>	12 to 17 years, 200 mg on first day, then 100 mg once a day for 4 days (5-day course in total) <sup>4</sup>
First choice antibiotic(s) if severe symptoms or signs (based on clinical judgement); guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup>	
Co-amoxiclav	Oral doses: 1 to 11 months, 0.5 ml/kg of 125/31 suspension three times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 1 to 5 years, 10 ml of 125/31 suspension three times a day or 0.5 ml/kg of 125/31 suspension three times a day for 5 days <sup>4,7</sup> 6 to 11 years, 10 ml of 250/62 suspension three times a day or 0.3 ml/kg of 250/62 suspension three times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> 12 to 17 years, 500/125 mg three times a day for 5 days <sup>4</sup> IV dose <sup>8</sup> : 1 to 2 months, 30 mg/kg two times a day <sup>4</sup> 3 months to 17 years, 30 mg/kg three times a day (maximum 1.2 g per dose three times a day) <sup>4</sup>
<b>with (if atypical pathogen suspected<sup>5</sup>):</b>  Clarithromycin <b>or</b>	Oral doses: see above for clarithromycin, for 5 days <sup>4</sup> IV doses <sup>8</sup> : 1 month to 11 years, 7.5 mg/kg twice a day (maximum 500 mg per dose) <sup>4</sup> 12 to 17 years, 500 mg twice a day <sup>4</sup>
Erythromycin (in pregnancy)	See oral doses for erythromycin; for 5 days <sup>4</sup>
Alternative antibiotics if severe symptoms or signs (based on clinical judgement), for penicillin allergy; guided by microbiological results when available <sup>3</sup> - consult local microbiologist	
<p><sup>1</sup>See <a href="#">BNFC</a> for use and dosing in hepatic impairment, renal impairment, pregnancy and breast-feeding, and administering intravenous (or, where appropriate, intramuscular) antibiotics.</p> <p><sup>2</sup>Oral doses are for immediate-release medicines. The age bands apply to children of average size and, in practice, the prescriber will use the age bands in conjunction with other factors such as the severity of the condition being treated and the child's size in relation to the average size of children of the same age.</p> <p><sup>3</sup>Give oral antibiotics first-line if the person can take oral medicines, and the severity of their condition does not require intravenous antibiotics.</p> <p><sup>4</sup>Stop antibiotic treatment after 5 days unless microbiological results suggest a longer course length is needed or the person is not clinically stable.</p> <p><sup>5</sup><i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i> infection occurs in outbreaks approximately every 4 years and is more common in school-aged children.</p> <p><sup>6</sup>See BNFC for use of doxycycline in children under 12.</p> <p><sup>7</sup>Or 5 ml of 250/62 suspension.</p> <p><sup>8</sup>Review intravenous antibiotics by 48 hours and consider switching to oral antibiotics if possible.</p>	