






Upper Respiratory Infection - Appropriate Treatment



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|  <p>Discuss Facts</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of upper respiratory infections are caused by viral infections • According to the CDC, an antibiotic will not help the patient get better • Taking antibiotics when not indicated could cause more harm than good • Taking antibiotics will not make you feel better |
|  <p>Make it routine</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a comprehensive medical history • Perform a thorough physical exam • Document all findings in the medical record |
|  <p>Give Information</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set expectations by educating on the recovery time for symptoms and comfort measures • Educate on comfort measures to ease symptoms • For patients insisting on an antibiotic, prescribe medication to relieve symptoms as applies • Encourage follow-up after 3 days if symptoms persist or get worse |
|  <p>When to Prescribe Antibiotics (Exclusions)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comorbid Condition History: <i>Emphysema, COPD, Chronic Bronchitis</i> • Competing Diagnosis that requires an antibiotic: Acute Pharyngitis, Acute Sinusitis, Otitis Media are examples |
|  <p>Code and Submit Claim</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If prescribing antibiotics, list all competing or comorbid diagnosis codes on the claim when submitted. |

