

Note: This summary pertains to acute bronchitis in adults. For guidance on acute exacerbation of COPD, [click here](#)

## EMPIRIC CHOICE

- + **Routine use of antimicrobials is not recommended and does not alter clinical course**
- + Acute bronchitis is a self-limited viral syndrome characterized by:
  - o cough of up to 3 weeks' duration with or without sputum production
  - o absence of signs of pneumonia on chest x-ray

## COMMON ORGANISMS

- + Viral:
  - o Influenza
  - o Rhinovirus
  - o Human metapneumovirus (hMPV)
  - o Coronavirus
  - o Parainfluenza virus
  - o Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
  - o Adenovirus
- + Bacterial etiologies account for less than 10% of cases
  - o *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*,
  - o *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae*
  - o *Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis*

## CURRENT RESISTANCE ISSUES

- + Antibacterial prescribing for acute upper respiratory tract infection is responsible for much of the epidemic of unnecessary antimicrobial use. This contributes to rising rates of antimicrobial resistance, *C. difficile* infection and avoidable harms related to antimicrobial adverse drug events.

## IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOST CONSIDERATION

- + Same management as immunocompetent

### References:

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2. Llor C, Moragas A, Bayona C et al. BMJ 2013;347:f5762.
3. Smith SM, Fahey T, Smucny J, Becker LA. Antibiotics for acute bronchitis (Review) Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2014, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD000245. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD 000245.pub3.
4. Clark TW, Medina M-J, Batham S, Currand MD et al. Adults hospitalized with acute respiratory illness rarely have detectable bacteria in the absence of COPD or pneumonia; viral infection predominates in a large prospective UK sample. J Infect 2014;69(5):507-15

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