

TARGET TREATING YOUR INFECTION – RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTION (RTI)



Your infection	Most are better by	How to look after yourself and your family	When to get help
Middle-ear infection	8 days	 Have plenty of rest. Drink enough fluids to avoid feeling thirsty. 	If you or your child has any of these symptoms, are getting worse or are sicker than you would expect (even if your/their temperature falls), trust your instincts
Sore throat	7-8 days		and seek medical advice urgently from NHS 111 Wales or your GP. If a child under the age of 5 has any of symptoms 1–3 go to A&E immediately or call 999.
Sinusitis	14-21 days	Ask your local pharmacist to recommend medicines	If your skin is very cold or has a strange colour, or you develop an unusual rash.
Common cold	14 days	to help your symptoms or pain (or both).	2. If you have new feelings of confusion or drowsiness, or have slurred speech.
Cough or bronchitis	21 days (a cough caused by COVID-19 may differ)	Fever is a sign the body is fighting the infection and usually gets better by itself in	If you have difficulty breathing. Signs that suggest breathing problems can be:breathing quicklyturning blue around the lips and the skin below the mouth
Other infection:	days	most cases. You can use paracetamol if you or your child are uncomfortable because of a fever. • Use a tissue and wash your hands with soap to help prevent spread of your infection to your family, friends and others you meet.	 skin between or above the ribs getting sucked or pulled in with every breath. If you develop a severe headache and are sick. If you develop chest pain. If you have difficulty swallowing or are drooling. If you cough up blood. If you are passing little to no urine. If you are feeling a lot worse. Less serious signs that can usually wait until the next available appointment:
guidance and information			10. If you are not starting to improve a little by the time given in 'Most are better by'11. Children with middle-ear infection: if fluid is coming out of their ears or they have new deafness.12. Mild side effects such as diarrhea: seek medical attention if you are concerned.
Back-up antibiotic prescription to be collected after days only if you are not starting to feel a little better or you feel worse, from:			
Colds, most coughs, sinusitis, ear infections, sore throats, and other infections often get better without antibiotics, as your body can usually fight these infections on its own.			
 Taking any antibiotics makes bacteria that live inside your body more resistant. This means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them. Antibiotics can cause side effects such as rashes, thrush, stomach pains, diarrhoea, reactions to sunlight, other symptoms, or being sick if you drink alcohol with metronidazole. 			
• Find out more about how you can make better use of antibiotics and help keep this vital treatment effective by visiting www.nhs.uk/keepantibioticsworking			