



Delayed antibiotic prescriptions

TARGET

Key discussion points

Keep **Antibiotics** Working

1 . Reasons for giving a back-up/delayed prescription

- Reassure patient - your body should beat the infection
- If the infection does not improve they will have access to antibiotics

2 . Number of days to wait

- Tailor to the patient and infection e.g. wait another 2 days and start antibiotics if not feeling better by then
- Typical illness duration: Sore throat: 7-8 days | Sinusitis: 14-21 days | Cough: 21 days | Otitis media: 8 days | Common cold: 14 days (could vary depending on patient history and comorbidities)

Remember to provide TARGET Self-care leaflets and safety-netting advice

Coding

Type '**deferred antibiotic**' or enter SNOMED/READ CODE* below into your prescribing system to enable retrospective audit.

- SNOMED - **2549788011*** - For deferred antibiotic therapy
- READ - **8BP0*** - For deferred antibiotic therapy
- READ - **8CAk*** - For patient advised to delay filling of prescription

*code may vary among prescribing systems

This resource was designed in collaboration with Oxford University and Imperial College London

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