

GROUP A STREPTOCOCCAL PHARYNGITIS

Pharmacy Assessment Protocol

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICE

The pharmacy will refer patients with the any of the following symptoms/conditions for further medical evaluation:

- Patients that are pregnant
- Children <3 years of age
- Temperature >103° F
- Altered mental status
- Respiratory rate of >30 breaths per minute
- Pulse > 125 beats per minute

TESTING CRITERIA

- Anyone presenting with sore throat and have had Group A Strep (GAS) close contact exposure *or*
- Anyone presenting with sore throat AND have two or more of the following:

Absence of cough	Fever	Swollen/tender cervical lymph nodes
Tonsils inflamed and/or with exudate	Headache	Age <45 years

PRESCRIBING

Upon a positive CLIA-waived rapid antigen detection test (RADT), the pharmacist shall identify any precautions or contraindications to therapy and then prescribe the most appropriate treatment:

First Line Treatment Options		
Antibiotic	Dose	Duration
Amoxicillin	50 mg/kg PO once daily (Max 1000 mg/day) Alternative: 25mg/kg twice daily (max 500mg per dose)	10 Days
Penicillin V <27 kg	250 mg PO twice daily	10 Days
Penicillin V >27 kg	500 mg PO twice daily or 250mg four times daily	10 Days
Second Line Treatment (may use for patients with mild reaction (i.e rash) to penicillin)		
Cephalexin	20 mg/kg PO twice daily (Max 500 mg/dose)	10 Days
Alternative Treatment Options		
Azithromycin	500mg PO day 1, then 250mg PO days 2-5 Alternative: 12mg/kg once (max 500mg) then 6mg/kg (max 250mg) daily x 4 days	5 Days
Clindamycin	7 mg/kg PO three times daily (Max 300 mg/dose)	10 Days

FOLLOW-UP

The patient should be instructed to contact the pharmacy if symptoms do not improve within 48 hours or if symptoms worsen, so the pharmacist can refer the patient for further medical evaluation. In the event of a negative RADT for a child or adolescent, the pharmacist may refer the patient to obtain a throat culture. If a prescription is provided, and a primary care provider is identified, the pharmacy will notify the provider of record within three business days following the patient encounter.

2025 Clinical Practice Guideline Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America on Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis: Risk Assessment Using Clinical Scoring Systems in Children and Adults.

Clinical Practice Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Group A Streptococcal Pharyngitis: 2012 Update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America.