

From the Deputy Chief Medical Officer
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SENT BY EMAIL

Your Ref:
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Dear Colleague

NICE Antimicrobial Prescribing Guideline NG79 – Sinusitis (acute): antimicrobial prescribing - <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng79>

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) produce these evidence-based guidelines for managing common infections in the context of tackling antimicrobial resistance – specifically in relation to bacterial infection and antibiotic use.

The Department has recently reviewed the above NICE guidance and has considered it for applicability in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Management of Infection Guidelines for Primary and Community Care reflect this guideline. They are available on the 'Microguide App' for mobile devices or via the Northern Ireland Formulary website at:

<http://niformulary.hscni.net/Formulary/Adult/5.0/Pages/default.aspx>

This guideline will also support the work of HSC Trusts in their antibiotic stewardship.

A full current list of NICE guidance endorsed for application in Northern Ireland can be found on the Department's website at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/topics/safety-and-quality-standards/national-institute-health-and-care-excellence-nice>



Dr Paddy Woods
Deputy Chief Medical Officer

Appendix 1

NICE guidance - Details from Departmental review

Reference Number	NICE Antimicrobial Prescribing Guideline – NG79 https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng79
Title	Sinusitis (acute): antimicrobial prescribing
Summary of guidance	<p>This guideline sets out an antimicrobial prescribing strategy for acute sinusitis. It aims to limit antibiotic use and reduce antimicrobial resistance. Acute sinusitis is usually caused by a virus, lasts for about 2 to 3 weeks, and most people get better without antibiotics. Withholding antibiotics rarely leads to complications.</p> <p>It includes recommendations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> managing symptoms, including advice when an antibiotic is not needed and the use of corticosteroids and nasal sprays choice of antibiotic when a back-up or immediate prescription is needed self-care
Related strategically relevant DoH/ HSC policies	None
Inter-Departmental interest	None
Legislative / policy caveats	<p>This advice does not override or replace the individual responsibility of health professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of their individual patients, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer. This would, for example, include situations where individual patients have other conditions or complications that need to be taken into account in determining whether the NICE guidance is fully appropriate in their case.</p> <p>Where this guidance indicates that informed consent should be obtained and documented, the DoH guidance <i>Reference Guide to Consent for Examination, Treatment or Care (2003)</i>, gives advice on the law concerning consent to intervention. Available at: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/consent-examination-treatment-or-care</p> <p>This guidance makes reference to Medicines Practice guidance which is not covered under the current service level agreement between the Department and NICE and therefore not endorsed by the DoH.</p>