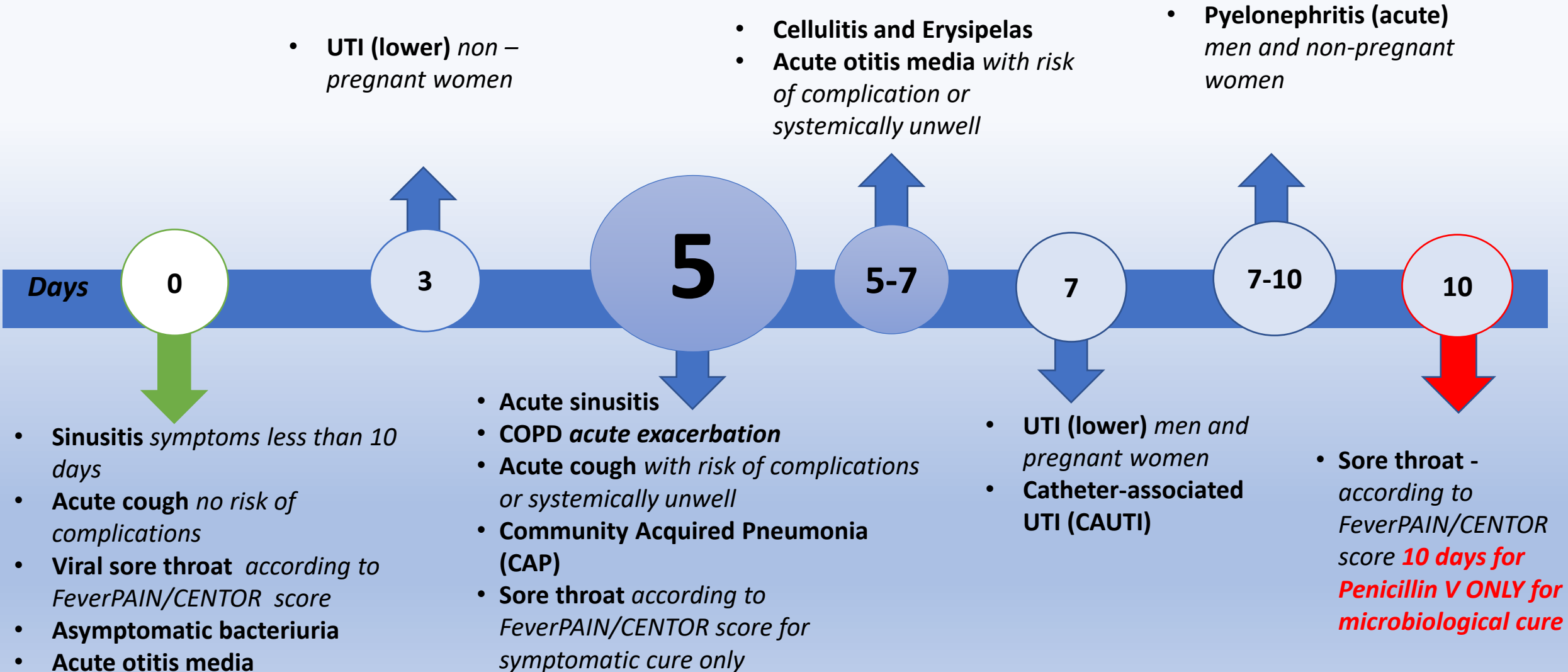


SLIDE INFORMATION

- **Slide 1** – Visual timeline to depict course lengths for common infections for adults. In line with NICE guidance for first line treatments only. 5 day course lengths are highlighted here with darker font and darker blue. Colours used i.e. green for 0 as some conditions are self-limiting and don't warrant antibiotics. Red for sore throat to prescribe with caution for persistent symptoms and/or confirmed Group A Streptococcus or Scarlet fever.
- **Slide 2** – To promote the 5-day course length for common infections in adults. More detail has been added for first-line treatment. Can be used for educational material and referencing use for prescribers
- **Slide 3** – The safety messaging of avoiding prolonged durations of antibiotic therapy. Comments welcome on key messages.

ANTIBIOTIC DURATIONS FOR COMMON INFECTIONS IN PRIMARY CARE (ADULTS)

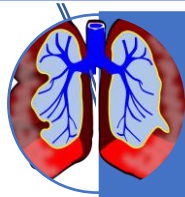
NICE recommended durations of antibiotic courses for **first-line treatments**



5 DAYS FOR 5 INFECTIONS (ADULTS)



Sore Throat (if antibiotic indicated) Phenoxymethylpenicillin 500mg four times a day for 5 days for symptomatic cure **OR** clarithromycin 250mg to 500mg twice a day for 5 days **OR** erythromycin 250mg to 500mg four times a day for 5 days



COPD (acute infective exacerbation) Amoxicillin 500mg three times a day for 5 days **OR** doxycycline 200mg day 1 and then 100mg daily on days 2-5 **OR** clarithromycin 500mg twice a day for 5 days



Acute Cough (if antibiotic indicated) Doxycycline 200mg day 1 then 100mg daily on days 2-5 **OR** amoxicillin 500mg three times a day for 5 days **OR** clarithromycin 250mg to 500mg twice a day for 5 days **OR** erythromycin 250mg to 500mg four times a day or 500mg to 1g twice a day for 5 days



Community Acquired Pneumonia Amoxicillin 500mg to 1g three times a day for 5 days **OR** doxycycline 200mg on day 1, then 100mg daily on days 2-5 **OR** clarithromycin 500mg twice a day for 5 days **OR** erythromycin (in pregnancy) 500mg four times a day for 5 days



Acute Sinusitis (if antibiotic indicated) Phenoxymethylpenicillin 500mg four times a day for 5 days **OR** if systemically very unwell co-amoxiclav 500/125mg 1 three times a day for 5 days **OR** for penicillin allergy doxycycline 200mg on day 1, then 100mg daily on days 2-5 **OR** clarithromycin 500mg twice a day for 5 days **OR** erythromycin (in pregnancy) 500mg four times a day for 5 days



SHORTER IS SAFER – AVOIDING PROLONGED DURATIONS OF ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY

Key Points

Antibiotics should be prescribed as recommended in NICE guidance

Prescribing the NICE recommended dose and course length is safe and effective

Evidence supports 5-day course length treatment for most common infections in primary care

Avoiding prolonged durations of antibiotic therapy means fewer side effects and reduces the risk of antibiotic resistance



**PROLONGED
DURATIONS OF
ANTIBIOTIC
THERAPY**

**Antimicrobial
resistance (AMR)**

***C. difficile* infection**

**Medication side
effects**

Non-compliance

Health care costs

**RECOMMENDED
SHORTEST
EFFECTIVE
DURATION**

