STRATEGIES TO REDUCE ANTIBIOTIC OVERUSE IN PRIMARY CARE: CLINICAL SCORING SYSTEMS

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY DESCRIPTION

Use these clinical scoring systems & criteria to help:

- Reduce diagnostic uncertainty
- Support an antibiotic prescribing decision
- Identify the need for additional testing for possible bacterial infections (i.e., pharyngitis, sinusitis, otitis media).

RESOURCES & HOW TO INCORPORATE INTO PRACTICE

**Modified Centor Score** is based on age and clinical characteristics to determine the risk of streptococcal pharyngitis and either:

1. Rule out need for antibiotics, or
2. Identify need for rapid antigen testing to guide the initiation of antibiotics.¹

**Canadian sinusitis guidelines** provide a mnemonic “PODS” to help support the diagnosis of acute bacterial sinusitis and identify the need for antibiotics.²

The Canadian Paediatric Society position statement on management of acute otitis media provides clinical criteria for initiation of antibiotics in children 6 months or older.³

IMPACT ON ANTIMICROBIAL USE

70-80% of patients with pharyngitis, sinusitis or acute otitis media do not need antibiotics.¹

One study found that documenting the Centor score in the chart was associated with reduced antibiotic prescribing for pharyngitis.⁴

References