

# 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.<sup>1</sup>



[Canadian sinusitis guidelines](#) provide a mnemonic “PODS” to help support the diagnosis of **acute bacterial sinusitis** and identify the need for antibiotics.<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup>

## IMPACT ON ANTIMICROBIAL USE



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

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



**8%  
Reduction  
in antibiotic  
prescribing<sup>1</sup>**

### References

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