

# Respiratory Tract Infections in children – A GP's Perspective

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# Respiratory Tract Infections

Most Common reason for presentation of children to General Practice

Most common reason for prescription of antibiotics

High degrees of uncertainty

# Two stage assessment

## Initial Impression

- Child walking or being carried
- General demeanour
- Level of interaction with environment
- Respiratory rate
- Some of this based on previous knowledge of the child

## Focussed Examination

- In well child to rule out unexpected findings
- Parental reassurance
- In unwell child to assess level of seriousness of condition.

# Factors affecting presentation

- “It’s gone on too long”
- RTI can last up to 3 weeks
- 50% acute cough gone in 10 days
  
- Previous hospitalisation of child or sibling
  
- Parental Anxiety – GP may not family well

# Factors Affecting Decision to prescribe antibiotics

- Perceived parental pressure
- Multiple attendances during the same illness episode ( pressure to do something )
- Concern around parental ability to follow safety netting advice
- Preservation of relationship
- Timing of consultation – holiday / weekend
- Lower ratings in GP Surveys

# Factors affecting decision to prescribe antibiotics

- Clinicians confidence in this age group (previous paed's experience)
- Time pressure on clinician - ?quicker to acquiesce.
- Lack of imaging / NPT
- Fear of missing diagnosis (Overworked Gp's)

# Follow up

- Safety netting
- Delayed prescribing
- Confidence in decision
- Written information on red flags / illness duration

# Prescribing Antibiotics

Formularies

SAPG / GG&C Antimicrobial apps

BNF for children

# Prescribing Antibiotics

- Caution re side effects
- Potential raised expectation of further antibiotics