

ACUTE COUGH / BRONCHITIS

Antibiotic Treatment Table

Antibiotics are NOT indicated for most cases of acute cough / bronchitis.

If antibiotic deemed necessary in high risk individual or systemically unwell, consider the following:

Drug	Dose	Duration	Notes
1st choice options			
Amoxicillin	500mg every 8 hours	5 days	Avoid in penicillin allergy
Doxycycline <i>(First choice in penicillin allergy)</i>	200mg every 24 hours*	5 days	Avoid in pregnancy. Advise to take with a glass of water and sit upright for 30 minutes after taking. Can take with food or milk if gastritis is an issue. Absorption of doxycycline significantly impaired by antacids, iron/calcium/magnesium/zinc-containing products.
2nd choice options			
Clarithromycin <i>(Second choice in penicillin allergy)</i>	500mg every 12 hours	5 days	Clarithromycin suitable only in 2 nd and 3 rd trimester in pregnancy. Alternative macrolide for all trimesters of pregnancy: Azithromycin 500mg stat then 250mg every 24 hours from Day 2 to Day 5.