

Some tips and useful advice for this autumn-winter

- Advice for parents/carers regarding acute cough in children:
 - Young children can develop 6-12 respiratory tract infections per year, usually accompanied by cough
 - Acute cough in children usually resolves (with or without antibiotics) within 3-4 weeks
 - Two most useful features to rule out pneumonia in a GP setting are:
 - Absence of difficult or laboured breathing
 - Absence of GP's subjective assessment that a child is unwell.
- COVID and flu vaccination (including childhood flu vaccine)
Protect your patients and colleagues against COVID-19 and flu, and reduce the burden of winter respiratory viruses on your practice by encouraging winter vaccinations in all eligible patients and staff.
- Dipstick urinalysis is useful in the assessment of urinary infection in some limited circumstances, including non-pregnant adult females under 65 years of age. They have limited use in men under 65 years of age. They are not helpful in diagnosing urinary infection in people:
 - Over 65 years old
 - Pregnancy
 - Those with indwelling catheters
 - Those without clinical symptoms of urinary infection.

Please see the position statement in the urinary section of www.antibioticprescribing.ie for details