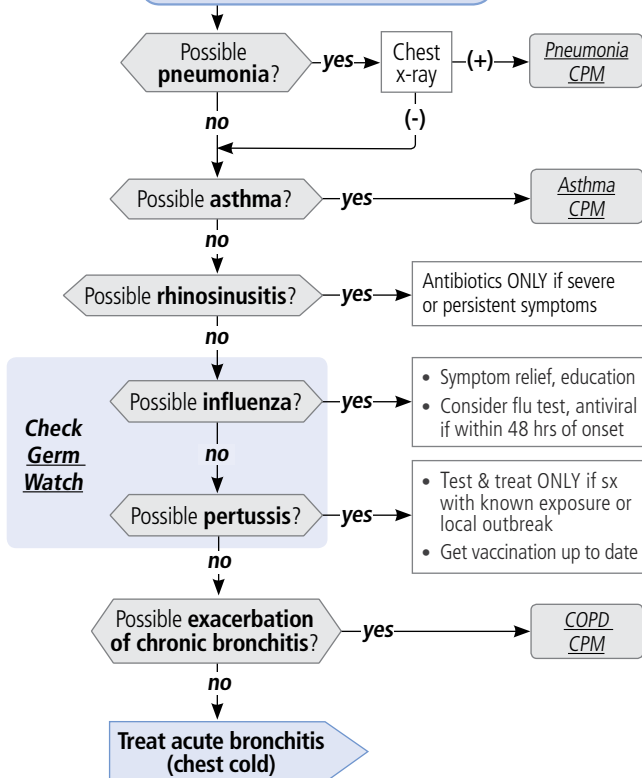


Bronchitis, Acute

Reference
Link

DIAGNOSIS

Acute Cough Symptoms



Bronchitis, Acute

Reference
Link

TREATMENT

Acute Bronchitis (Chest Cold)

MANAGE with NO antibiotics

- **Withhold antibiotics.** NO antibiotics.
- **Provide education:**
 - Refer to illness as a “chest cold” (not bronchitis).
 - Explain antibiotic risks (see [Colds and Coughs in Adults: Managing Viral Infections fact sheet](#)).
 - Offer contingency plan if cough worsens.
- **Recommend symptom relief:**
 - Fever, aches, pains: NSAIDs, acetaminophen.
 - Nasal congestion: decongestant may help.
 - Cough: ipratropium (Atrovent), tiotropium (Spiriva), guaifenesin (Mucinex, Robitussin) may help; albuterol (Proventil) if wheezing or asthma. Other remedies not proven effective.

FOLLOW UP

- Follow-up appt. for new/worsening symptoms, or if cough lasts longer than 3 weeks total.
- Re-evaluate; consider chest x-ray.
- If cough lasts 3 to 8 weeks, CXR is normal, and pertussis ruled out, consider diagnosis of post-infectious cough. Avoid antibiotics; consider ipratropium (or if ineffective, inhaled corticosteroids).