

Diagnosis of sinusitis

**Purulent nasal discharge AND
nasal obstruction or facial pressure**

no — Have the symptoms been present >4 weeks? — yes

[Complete Sinusitis CPM](#)

Consider subacute or chronic sinusitis; Refer to ENT

To diagnose acute bacterial sinusitis (ABS), patient must fall into at least **ONE** of the clinical presentation categories below

SEVERE	Temperature $\geq 102.2^{\circ}\text{F}$ (39°C), facial pain/pressure, and purulent nasal discharge for 3 consecutive days
WORSENING	New or worsening sinusitis signs and symptoms AFTER initial improvement or following URI that has lasted ≥ 7 days
PERSISTENT	Purulent nasal discharge AND facial pain or nasal obstruction without improvement for ≥ 10 days

no — Does patient meet ≥ 1 of the 3 ABS presentations? — yes

Acute **VIRAL** sinusitis likely

Acute **BACTERIAL** sinusitis likely

**Treat acute
VIRAL sinusitis symptoms**

- Recommend symptomatic therapy*
- Instruct patient to return if symptoms worsen or persist ≥ 10 days

**Treat as acute
BACTERIAL sinusitis (see pg 2)**

*Symptom relief checklists [Ages \(0-12\) /Spanish](#) ; [Ages \(12-18\) /Spanish](#)

Treatment of acute bacterial sinusitis

Patient <18 with acute bacterial sinusitis

Discuss symptom relief and treat according to clinical presentation

Complete Sinusitis CPM

SEVERE

WORSENING

PERSISTENT

Primary antibiotics

amoxicillin-clavulanate:
45mg amox/kg/dose orally
2 times per day (max 2g
amox/dose) for 5 days

If patient is allergic to penicillin
use cefdinir + clindamycin

If needed

Watchful
waiting
onlyWatchful waiting
+ delayed antibiotic
prescription

Instruct patient to contact doctor
or fill delayed prescription if worse
in 2–3 days or if no improvement in
5–7 days

Primary antibiotic for use if WORSENING or no improvement during watchful waiting period*

amoxicillin: 45mg/kg/dose orally 2 times per day (max
2g/dose) for 5 days

*If patient allergic to penicillin use cefdinir only as 1st line agent

If needed

Secondary antibiotics if needed

cefdinir + clindamycin

- **cefdinir:** 14mg/kg/dose orally once per day (max 600mg/dose) 7 days
- **clindamycin:** 10 mg / kg / dose orally 3 times per day (max 300mg / dose) for 7 days