

Patient name

It is recommended that you self-care

Your infection	Most are better by	How to look after yourself and your family	When to get help
Middle-ear infection	8 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have plenty of rest. Drink enough fluids to avoid feeling thirsty. Ask your local pharmacist to recommend medicines to help your symptoms or pain (or both). Fever is a sign the body is fighting the infection and usually gets better by itself in most cases. You can use paracetamol if you or your child are uncomfortable as a result of a fever. Use a tissue and wash your hands well to help prevent spread of your infection to your family, friends and others you meet. Other things you can do suggested by GP or nurse: 	<p>The following are possible signs of serious illness and should be assessed urgently:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If your skin is very cold or has a strange colour, or you develop an unusual rash. If you feel confused or have slurred speech or are very drowsy. If you have difficulty breathing. Signs that suggest breathing problems can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> breathing quickly turning blue around the lips and the skin below the mouth skin between or above the ribs getting sucked or pulled in with every breath. If you develop a severe headache and are sick. If you develop chest pain. If you have difficulty swallowing or are drooling. If you cough up blood. If you are feeling a lot worse. <p>If you or your child has any of these symptoms, are getting worse or are sicker than you would expect (even if your/their temperature falls), trust your instincts and seek medical advice urgently from NHS 111 or your GP. If a child under the age of 5 has any of symptoms 1–3 go to A&E immediately or call 999.</p> <p>Less serious signs that can usually wait until the next available appointment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If you are not starting to improve a little by the time given in the 'Most are better by' column. In children with middle-ear infection: if fluid is coming out of their ears or if they have new deafness. Mild side effects such as diarrhoea, however seek medical attention if you're concerned. Other
Sore throat	7-8 days		
Sinusitis	14-21 days		
Common cold	14 days		
Cough or bronchitis	21 days		
Other infection: days		

Back-up antibiotic prescription to be collected after days only if you are not starting to feel a little better or you feel worse.

Collect from: Pharmacy General practice reception GP, nurse, other

- Colds, most coughs, sinusitis, ear infections, sore throats, and other infections often get better without antibiotics, as your body can usually fight these infections on its own.
- Taking antibiotics encourages bacteria that live inside you to become resistant. That means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them.
- Antibiotics can cause side effects such as rashes, thrush, stomach pains, diarrhoea, reactions to sunlight, other symptoms, or being sick if you drink alcohol with metronidazole.
- Find out more about how you can make better use of antibiotics and help keep this vital treatment effective by visiting www.nhs.uk/keepantibioticsworking

Never share antibiotics and always return any unused antibiotics to a pharmacy for safe disposal.