

Waterford: Antimicrobial Guidelines - Antimicrobial Guideline: Acute Exacerbation of COPD

Infective Exacerbation of COPD

General Points

Consider antibiotic therapy if 2 or more present:

- Increased breathlessness
- Increased sputum volume
- Sputum purulence

OR severe exacerbation requiring assisted ventilation.

If consolidation on CXR treat as CAP.

Review previous sputum culture results in particular for evidence of colonisation/infection with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Antibiotics

First line: Amoxicillin 1g TDS PO

OR if recent (<2/52) course of amoxicillin : **Co-amoxiclav** PO or IV depending on severity.

Review need for IV therapy on a daily basis.

OR **Doxycycline** 200mg loading dose, then 100mg daily.

OR **Clarithromycin** 500mg BD PO (Consider potential for QT prolongation and drug interaction with statins).

Duration: 5-7 days.

Comments

- Ensure all patients offered annual influenza vaccine prior to hospital discharge if during flu season and appropriate to do so. See [National Immunisation Guidelines](#) for more details.
- Check pneumococcal vaccine status and arrange vaccination if required.