

INCLUSION CRITERIA

Patients aged ≥ 12 months presenting with any of the following symptoms: rhinorrhea, congestion, or cough with or without fever and a suspicion of sinusitis

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Signs of lower respiratory infection
- Complex medical history
- Anatomic abnormality of the sinuses
- Nasal foreign body
- Chronic sinusitis-(90 or more uninterrupted days of respiratory symptoms)
- Recurrent sinusitis- 4 episodes in 1 year
- Toxic appearance
- Respiratory Distress
- Orbital or Neurological symptoms
- Immunocompromised
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Mastoiditis
- Unable to tolerate PO

MEASURES

- Appropriate antibiotic selection

ADJUNCTIVE CARE

- Nasal saline spray/rinse
- Nasal corticosteroids
- Afrin (no longer than 3 days)

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

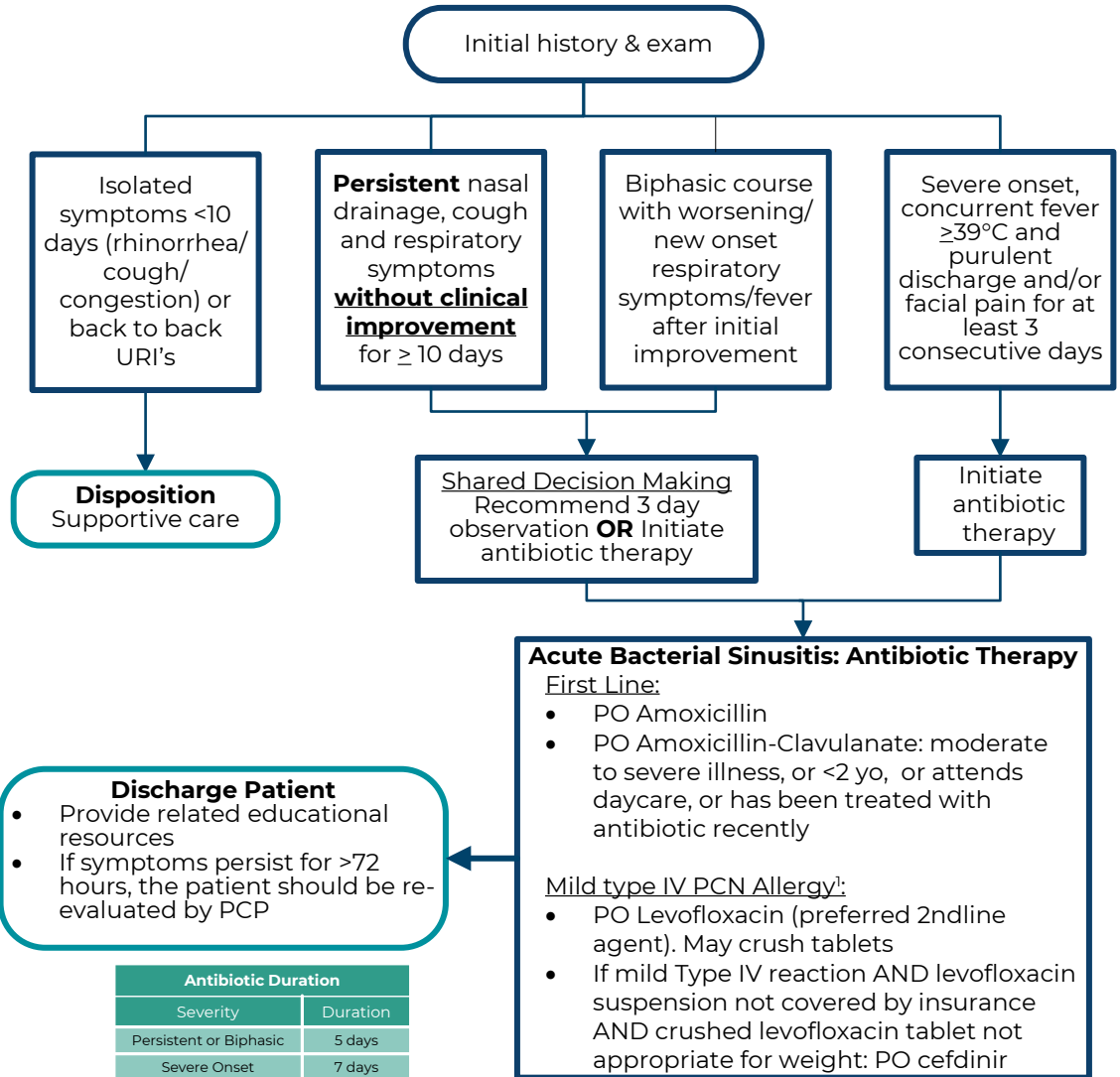
- Xray imaging is not routinely recommended for uncomplicated acute sinusitis
- Consider nasal foreign body if malodorous unilateral drainage
- Patients who are acutely ill and appear toxic OR severe/intractable headache OR are not improving after 3 days of appropriate antimicrobial therapy should consider imaging (CT/MRI), ENT consultation, and/or intravenous antibiotics

PENICILLIN ALLERGY DEFINITION¹

- Mild PCN allergy type IV: Delayed maculopapular rash without urticaria, blistering, desquamation, mucosal involvement, systemic symptoms)
- Severe PCN allergy (type I/ IgE mediated): Allergist confirmed history of urticaria, angioedema, wheezing, respiratory distress or anaphylaxis

DISCHARGE CRITERIA

- Improving vital signs as expected for degree of fever
- Tolerating PO



Antibiotic Duration	
Severity	Duration
Persistent or Biphasic	5 days
Severe Onset	7 days

Antibiotic Dosing			
Medication	Route	Dosage	Max. per Dose
Amoxicillin	PO	45 mg/kg/dose BID	1500 mg
Amoxicillin-clavulanate (Augmentin®)	PO	ES suspension (amoxicillin 600 mg/clavulanate 42.9 mg/5 mL) 45 mg/kg/dose of amoxicillin BID	1800 mg
	PO	Tablet (amoxicillin 875 mg/clavulanate 125 mg per tablet) for weight ≥ 40 kg 875 mg of amoxicillin BID	875 mg
	PO	Chewable tablet (amoxicillin 400 mg/clavulanate 57 mg per tablet) for weight ≥ 40 kg 800 mg of amoxicillin BID	800 mg
Cefdinir	PO	7 mg/kg/dose BID	300 mg
Levofloxacin	PO	≥ 12 mo to < 5 years 10 mg/kg/dose BID	250 mg
	PO	> 5 years 10 mg/kg/dose Q24H	500 mg

Disclaimer: The clinical pathways are based upon publicly available medical evidence and/or a consensus of medical practitioners at Nemours Children's Health ("Nemours") and are current at the time of publication. These clinical pathways are intended to be a guide for practitioners and may need to be adapted for each specific patient based on the practitioner's professional judgment, consideration of any unique circumstances, the needs of each patient and their family, and/or the availability of various resources at the health care institution where the patient is located.

VERSION MANAGEMENT

- Version 1.0 (5/19/2026): Go Live.

Questions about this pathway should be directed to **clinicalpathways@nemours.org**.

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