Acute Pharyngitis for Adult and Pediatric Patients Algorithm

**Signs and Symptoms**
- Sore throat
- Dysphagia
- Fever > 102°F
- Body aches
- Headache
- Petechiae
- Tonsillar exudates ± vesicles
- Tender cervical lymph nodes

**Rapid Antigen Testing Recommended**
- Close contact with infected person
- Age 4-15 years with fever/sore throat
- Sudden onset of symptoms
- History of rheumatic fever
- Epidemic of GAS or Corynebacterium diphtheria

**Symptomatic treatment**
- APAP or NSAIDs
- Hydration
- Throat lozenges
- Salt water rinse

**Throat Cultures for GAS**
- Children
- Adolescents
- History of negative rapid antigen test

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**Mild allergy (itching)**
Cephalexin:
- Adults: 500 mg QID
- Peds*: 25-50 mg/kg/day divided every 6 to 12 hours
Cefdinir:
- Adults: 300 mg every q 12 hours or 600 mg once daily
- Peds*: 14 mg/kg/day QD or 7 mg/kg q 12 hours

**Severe allergy (anaphylaxis)**
Clindamycin:
- Adults: 300 mg TID
- Peds*: 7 mg/kg TID
Azithromycin:
- Adults: 500 mg once then 250 mg x 4 days
- Peds*: 12 mg/kg once (max 500 mg) then 6 mg/kg (max 250) x 4 days

**First line in Pediatrics**
- Penicillin V: 50 mg/kg/day divided in 3 doses
- Amoxicillin: 40-50 mg/kg/day divided in 3 doses

**First line in Adults**
- Penicillin V: 500 mg BID or TID
- Amoxicillin: 500 mg BID or TID

Plus symptomatic treatment

**Duration**: 10 days

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**APAP or NSAIDs**
**Hydration**
**Throat lozenges**
**Salt water rinse**

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**Relapse?**
- Consider alternate therapy if adherent to initial treatment

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**Penicillin allergy?**
- Yes
- No

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**Positive for Group A Strep**
- Yes
- No

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**Likely viral**