

PHARMACY FIRST RED FLAGS

QUICK ESCALATION REFERENCE GUIDE

ACUTE SINUSITIS



- Non-blanching rash (a rash that does not disappear with pressure)
- Drowsiness
- Neck stiffness
- Sensitivity to light

ACUTE SORE THROAT



- Confusion
- Raised respiratory rate/breathlessness
- Raised heart rate
- Drop in blood pressure
- Stridor (noisy or high pitched sound with breathing)

INFECTED INSECT BITES



- Risk of airway obstruction
- Bite or sting around the eyes
- Signs of anaphylaxis including:
 - Swollen eyes, lips, hands and feet
 - Feeling lightheaded or faint
 - Swelling of the mouth, throat or tongue, causing breathing and swallowing difficulties
 - Abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting
 - Collapse or unconsciousness

IMPETIGO



- Widespread infection
- Systemically unwell
- Confusion
- Raised heart rate
- Raised respiratory rate/breathlessness

UNCOMPLICATED URINARY TRACT INFECTION IN WOMEN



- Confusion
- Raised respiratory rate/breathlessness
- Raised heart rate
- Drop in blood pressure
- Rapid or significant worsening of symptoms

SHINGLES



- Confusion or disorientation
- Muscle weakness
- Loss of bladder or bowel control
- Facial nerve paralysis
- Neck stiffness
- Mottled skin
- Sensitivity to light

ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA



- Non-blanching rash
- Drowsiness
- Neck stiffness
- Sensitivity to light
- Facial nerve paralysis



IMPORTANT

If any red flag symptoms are present:

SIGNPOST PATIENT TO A&E OR PHONE 999 IN AN EMERGENCY.

Do not proceed with routine Pharmacy First assessment.

