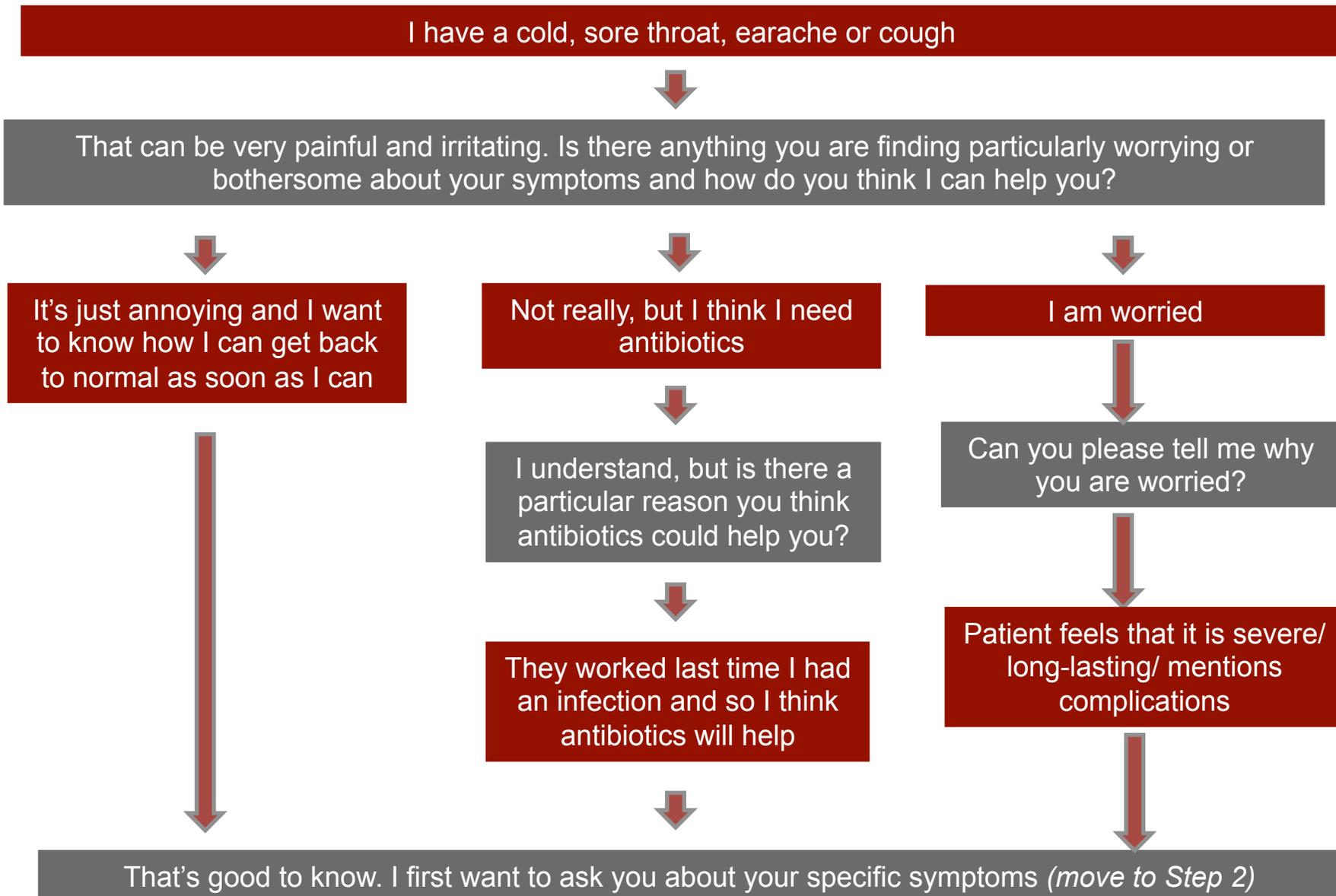


The GRIP Algorithm: Step 1 - Address the patient's concerns



Step 2 – Be vigilant, assess severity

Please could you describe the symptoms of your sore throat/cold/earache/cough in more detail?

HCP (GP/pharmacist) asks specific Q's with respect to duration, fever, pain and other relevant items based on the patients detailed description of their symptoms

PHYSICIAN: I am going to do a physical examination

Worrying physical exam and/or symptoms (as per national guidelines)

PHARMACIST: Is there anything in particular worrying you?

No worrying symptoms and/or physical exam

That's very helpful. I think it might be useful to do more checks/ prescribe an antibiotic

Patient communicates worrying symptoms

No

Yes, I have (any of the following): been very unwell, diabetes, cystic fibrosis, chronic lung disease, HIV, a poor immune system

Do you have other health problems, like chronic diseases, or have been unwell recently, that you have not mentioned?

OK. I didn't find anything worrying in the physical examination and haven't found risk factors in your history. Lets see how I can help

That's very helpful. I think it might be useful to see a doctor

No, I'm normally quite healthy

You have an upper respiratory tract infection (URTI) (move to Step 3)

Step 3 - Counselling on effective symptomatic relief

URTI symptoms are caused by your immune system fighting back against the infection. As you're otherwise healthy your immune system should be strong enough to tackle it, we just need to help you get relief for your symptoms. Let's remind ourselves of why you came to see me?

It's just annoying and I want to know how I can get back to normal as soon as I can

I think I need antibiotics

Antibiotics don't work in most URIs, they won't relieve your symptoms or make you feel better faster. Antibiotics may also cause side effects, such as diarrhoea. Can you see they may do more harm than good for you today?

I am worried about my symptoms

[Physician: your physical examination and medical history don't show anything to be worried about]
We have discussed your symptoms so now we can look at how to relieve those symptoms

Note: Parents whose children have an URTI may need additional reassurance

It might be good to have them just in case I don't get better

Antibiotics should only be used when they are expected to benefit you. The more they are used, the more bacteria will become resistant to them. This could make future infections harder to treat. Are you happy that we look at how we can relieve your symptoms?

Let's see what symptomatic treatment is best for you (continue to next slide)

Step 3 – Counselling on effective symptomatic relief

URTIs can last up to 3 weeks* so it's important that we find the right relief for you. Which are the symptoms you are finding most troublesome?

I would like something to reduce my throat pain / headache / ear pain / fever / treat my cough / unblock my nose

What type of treatment have you used before? Is there any type of treatment you prefer using?

I prefer / used [names a specific format/product]

From listening to the way you have described your symptoms, I think this type of symptomatic relief treatment would be good (Opportunity to advise continuing the preferred/used formulation or another formulation (combination). Would that suit you?

I am not sure, are there any other medicine types that might help?

Antibiotics won't be helpful for you, so we have to find the optimal relieving treatment for you (Opportunity to advise on other formulations). Would that suit you?

Yes

Besides this treatment option make sure you take care of yourself. Drink plenty of fluids, rest and manage your symptoms with the right products to help feel better fast. If symptoms worsen, last longer than expected or new symptoms develop come back and see me

Normal duration of URTIs: Earache – 4 days; Sore throat/tonsillitis – 1 week; Cold/flu – 10 days/2 weeks; Runny/ blocked nose – 1-3 weeks; Sinusitis – 2-3 weeks; Cough – 3 weeks