

# FeverPAIN Score: Acute sore throat

July 2016



The latest Public Health England publication: Management of Infection Guidance for Primary Care for Consultation and Local Adaptation, has recommended the use of the FeverPAIN Score for the management of acute sore throat. This Five item scoring system enables clinicians to target and prescribe antibiotics more effectively and also acts as an aid for clinicians to educate patients about appropriate use of antibiotics.

Studies have demonstrated that the use of the FeverPAIN Score to decide whether to prescribe antibiotics immediately or provide a delayed prescription reduced antibiotic use by approximately 30%. This is when compared to providing a delayed prescription alone. It was also noted that despite this reduction in antibiotic use, patients experienced quicker symptom resolution.

The score calculator can be accessed at <https://ctu1.phc.ox.ac.uk/feverpain/index.php>

The score and advice (see table below) is calculated by taking into consideration the following factors:

- Fever during previous 24 hours
- Purulence
- Rapid onset ( $\leq 3$  days)
- Very inflamed tonsils
- No cough/coryza

Score	Advice
0-1	13-18% streptococci. Use NO antibiotic strategy
2-3	34-40% streptococci. Use delayed prescription strategy
>4	62-65% streptococci. Use immediate antibiotic if severe, or 48hr short back-up prescription

Further guidance and information can be obtained from the local Antimicrobial Guidelines for Primary Care which can be accessed at [www.elmmb.nhs.uk](http://www.elmmb.nhs.uk).

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*The FeverPAIN Score enables clinicians to target and prescribe antibiotics more effectively.*

For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on 01254 282087 (BwD CCG) or 01282 644807 (EL CCG)

