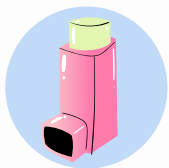


# COPD Exacerbation in Older Adults

## What is acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?

- Worsens over  $\leq 14$  days (acute)
- Increased dyspnea OR Increased cough and sputum production

## Who needs antibiotics?



More than 80% of exacerbations can be managed in the nursing home with an inhaler. Steroids may be considered.



Mild exacerbations typically do not require antibiotics.



Consider antibiotics for moderate or severe exacerbations.



For more information, review the 15-minute refresher on COPD exacerbation in older adults.

<https://spice.unc.edu/ncclasp>

## The Right Antibiotic



If antibiotics are needed, select first-line macrolides OR 2nd- or 3rd-generation cephalosporins.



Avoid fluoroquinolones due to serious side effects.

## The Right Duration



Prescribe 3-5 days of antibiotics, then reassess.



If patient does not improve in 3-5 days, consider hospitalization, if in line with care goals.



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