



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- ❗ Do not stop taking any of your medication unless you are told to do so by your doctor
- ❗ If you are not happy with your medication changing please contact your surgery.
- ❗ If you would like to discuss any information contained in this leaflet, please consult your doctor or pharmacist.



For any further advice or information please contact the surgery on:

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Or speak to your local pharmacist.



**Rescue Medications  
and  
COPD**

**Important changes to your  
medicine**

**Patient Information Leaflet**

**Q: What is COPD?**

A: COPD is a respiratory disease that covers a number of conditions, Bronchitis, Emphysema, repeat chest infections, and a small number who have a condition called Alpha 1 antitrypsin syndrome. Patients with COPD have usually smoked or been in contact with pollutants regularly. (with the exception of the patients with Alpha 1)

**Q: What is an exacerbation?**

A: An exacerbation is the name given to the time when you feel more unwell from your chest, by either an infection with coloured sputum, or chest tightness which is much worse than normal.

**Q: How do I take my Rescue Medication?**

A: You will be given a week's course of antibiotics –

- Amoxicillin 500mg 1 three times a day 15 caps , or
- Doxycycline 100mg 2 the first day then one a day for the rest of the week, total 6 caps.

And a week's course of Steroids

- Prednisolone 5mg, 6 tablets a day for a week.

This should only be taken under the following circumstances

If you have an increased amount of sputum produced **and** you start to feel unwell – take antibiotics

Chest feels tighter than normal and difficulty breathing more so than normal for you and you feel unwell– take the Steroids

Both symptoms –take both antibiotics and steroids together.

If your sputum is clear **DO NOT** take the antibiotics as this can lead to antibiotics resistance

**Q: What should I do if it does not work?**

A: Contact your GP at the first opportunity, and send in a sputum sample if possible to see if your bug is resistant to your rescue antibiotics.

**Q When Should I attend the Accident and Emergency Dept.**

**A:** If you have taken your antibiotics and steroids and you feel much worse, and you cannot complete a sentence without getting very breathless, then dialling your GP or 111 and checking out your symptoms would be a good idea.

