Algorithm: Acute Pharyngitis

Concern for pharyngitis
- Sore throat plus 2 or more of the following:
  - Absence of cough
  - Presence of tonsillar exudates or swelling
  - History of fever
  - Presence of swollen and tender anterior cervical lymph nodes
  - Age <15 years

Yes
- Perform rapid streptococcal antigen testing
  - Generally avoid testing in children <3 years (almost always viral)

No
- Viral pharyngitis more likely. Defer antibiotics.

Rapid positive?
- Yes
  - Allergic to penicillins?
    - Yes
      - Alternatives:
        - Cephalexin
        - Clindamycin
    - No
      - Penicillin or amoxicillin (50 mg/kg once daily)

- No
  - Defer antibiotics. Await throat culture.
    - Positive?
      - Yes
        - Defer antibiotics.
      - No
        - Penicillin or amoxicillin (50 mg/kg once daily)