Algorithm: Acute Sinusitis

Concern for sinusitis

Symptoms meet one of the following?

• Persistent symptoms of nasal discharge or daytime cough >10 days without improvement
• Worsening symptoms or new-onset fever, daytime cough or nasal discharge after initial improvement of a viral URI
• Severe symptoms of fever ≥39°C or purulent nasal discharge for at least 3 consecutive days

YES

Persistent symptoms?

YES

Defer antibiotics with watchful waiting up to 3 days

NO

Worsening or severe symptoms?

NO

Defer antibiotics with watchful waiting up to 3 days

YES

Allergic to penicillins?

YES

Amoxicillin (first line) or amoxicillin/clavulanate

NO

Alternatives:
• Cefdinir
• Cefuroxime
• Cefpodoxime

Pursue an alternative diagnosis for the symptoms