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?

YES

Allergic to penicillins?

YES

Alternatives:

- Cefdinir
- Cefuroxime
- Cefpodoxime

NO

Amoxicillin (first line) or amoxicillin/clavulanate

NO

Pursue an alternative diagnosis for the symptoms