

Pneumonia is defined as having 2 or more signs/symptoms plus radiographic findings.

Outpatient Care



Antibiotic Treatment:

- Amoxicillin or doxycycline alone
- If comorbidities: amoxicillin/clavulanate or oral cephalosporin (i.e., cefpodoxime or cefuroxime) AND macrolide/doxycycline
- Duration: 3 days

Diagnostic testing: COVID/flu

Other: no steroids

Inpatient Care

(Non-severe Pneumonia)

Antibiotic Treatment:

- β -lactam (e.g., ampicillin + sulbactam or ceftriaxone) + macrolide
- Duration: 3-5 days



Diagnostic testing: COVID/flu; others only in special cases (e.g., risk factors for MRSA/*Pseudomonas*)

Other: no steroids

ICU Care (Severe Pneumonia)



Antibiotic Treatment:

- β -lactam (e.g., ampicillin + sulbactam or ceftriaxone) + macrolide
 - Add vancomycin and substitute cefepime for β -lactam only if risk factors for MRSA/*pseudomonas*
- Duration: limited evidence; MRSA/*pseudomonas* minimum of 7 days; longer for complications

Diagnostic testing: Blood & respiratory cultures, legionella urinary antigen, COVID/flu (+/- expanded viral testing); If started on anti-MRSA/*Pseudomonas* -- MRSA nasal swab, pneumococcal urinary antigen

ASAP Hydrocortisone 200 mg/day x 4-7 days then taper

Treatment should be based on severity of illness and take into account risks/benefits of treatment.