Centor Score (McIsaac Modification)

Patient's name: _____ **Date:** _____ dd / mm / yyyy

Age: _____ **Assessed by:** _____

HOW TO SCORE

The Centor score estimates how likely a sore throat is to be group A streptococcal pharyngitis. The McIsaac modification adds an age adjustment, which makes it usable in children as well as adults. Score runs from -1 to 5.

CRITERIA

Criterion — Points

Temperature over 38 C (100.4 F), by history or measured — +1

Absence of cough — +1

Tender, swollen anterior cervical lymph nodes — +1

Tonsillar swelling or exudate — +1

Age 3 to 14 years — +1

Age 15 to 44 years — 0

Age 45 years or over — -1

Tick what is present

- ☐ Fever over 38 C
- ☐ No cough
- ☐ Tender anterior cervical nodes
- ☐ Tonsillar swelling or exudate

Age band points: _____ **Total score:** _____

WHAT TO DO WITH THE SCORE

Score — Approximate risk of strep — Suggested action -1 to 0 — 1-2.5% — No testing and no antibiotic 1 — 5-10% — No testing and no antibiotic 2 — 11-17% — Rapid antigen test or culture; treat only if positive 3 — 28-35% — Rapid antigen test or culture; treat only if positive 4 to 5 — 51-53% — Rapid antigen test or culture; treat if positive

Testing beats empiric treatment US guidance recommends confirming group A strep with a rapid antigen test or culture before prescribing, even at a high score. In children and adolescents a negative rapid test should be backed up with a throat culture.

Test performed

◯ Rapid antigen ◯ Throat culture ◯ Both ◯ None

Result: _____ **Antibiotic prescribed:** _____

Dose and duration: _____ **Review date:** _____ dd / mm / yyyy

Red flags considered (airway compromise, drooling, trismus, unilateral swelling, neck stiffness)

Sources: Centor RM, Witherspoon JM, Dalton HP, et al. The diagnosis of strep throat in adults in the emergency room. Med Decis Making. 1981;1(3):239-246. · McIsaac WJ, White D, Tannenbaum D, Low DE. A clinical score to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use in patients with sore throat. CMAJ. 1998;158(1):75-83. · Shulman ST, Bisno AL, Clegg HW, et al. IDSA clinical practice guideline for group A streptococcal pharyngitis. Clin Infect Dis. 2012;55(10):e86-e102.