

**Another season with influenza, cold and acute bronchitis
...and thousands of unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions!**

C-reactive protein promotes a more careful prescribing of antibiotics in respiratory tract infections (RTI)

Moderately elevated CRP (10-50 mg/L)

- in upper RTI points to a viral or self-limiting bacterial infection.
- in suspected influenza supports the diagnosis of a viral infection. A high CRP may indicate a secondary bacterial infection.
- in lower RTI decreases the probability of pneumonia and points to self-limiting acute bronchitis.

Highly elevated CRP (>100 mg/L)

- in lower respiratory tract infections points to a serious infection, usually of bacterial origin, that requires antibiotic treatment.

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