

Pneumonia

RFQs

- Is there any suggestion that you have been confused or disorientated?
- I'm just going to check your blood pressure and your chest, if that's OK.

Provide

You have an infection affecting your right lung called pneumonia. I would suggest that we treat you with an antibiotic for 5 days.

Version 1: Since you are at a low risk of dying because of this infection, it would be OK for you to stay at home for treatment.

Safety net:

If you are not improving within 3 days we should see you again. If you are any worse, let's see you urgently. Because pneumonia can be dangerous you might prefer for me to examine you again tomorrow or the day after to make sure that you are no worse. What do you think?

Provide

Version 2: It's reassuring that you are not confused and your blood pressure is above 90/60, but since you are over 65 and you are breathing more than 30 times in a minute, I would suggest that we think about sending you to hospital. You have an intermediate risk of dying (1-10%) if we don't keep a careful eye on you.

Since you are not keen on going into hospital, would it be alright if I ask a nurse (from urgent care team) to see you every day until you are starting to improve? Of course if you are becoming confused, more breathless or feeling faint we should really send you into hospital urgently.

Within a week you should be feeling a lot better. The night sweats should have settled. It may take a month for the chest pain, and the extra phlegm, to settle down. The cough and breathless may hang around for up to 6 weeks. Most of your symptoms should have gone within 3 months but you might still feel a little fatigued.