

## Lower Respiratory Tract Infection (LRTI) Procalcitonin Algorithm

## **Initial PCT value**

Antibiotic Use Recommendation



Strongly Discouraged

- - Discouraged

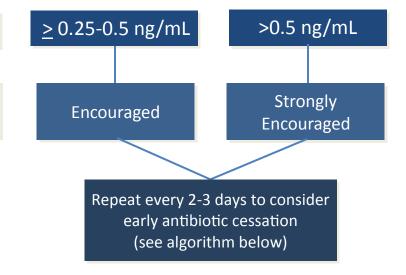
0.1-0.24 ng/mL

or drop by >80%

Cessation

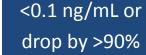
**Encouraged** 

- Consider alternative diagnosis
- Repeat PCT in 6-12 hours if antibiotics not begun and no clinical improvement
- If clinical unstable, immunosuppressed or high risk consider overruling (PSI Class IV-V, CURB >2, GOLD III or IV)





Antibiotic Use Recommendation



Cessation Strongly Encouraged

Consider continuing if clinically unstable

## <u>></u>0.25-0.5 ng/mL

Cessation
Discouraged

>0.5 ng/mL

Cessation Strongly
Discouraged

If PCT rising or not adequately decreasing consider possible treatment failure and evaluate for need for expanding antibiotic coverage or further diagnostic evaluation

## Disclaimer:

This algorithm is intended to serve as a guide for interpretation of the procalcitonin level. For assistance or questions please call the Antimicrobial Stewardship team at 5-2249.