

Sore Throat

The algorithm below will help you with diagnosis but beware – there are many less common causes of sore throat. If you are in doubt about the diagnosis refer the patient to ENT.

Sore Throat

Less than 2 weeks

- Fever
- Red throat or tonsils
- Pus on tonsils
- Tender neck
- Tender lymph nodes
- Feeling unwell
- Recent common cold



Tonsillitis

Acute Pharyngitis

More than 4 weeks



No Red Flags



Chronic Pharyngitis

Red Flags



- Smoker?
- Alcohol?
- Hoarseness?
- Swallowing difficulty?
- Coughing blood?
- Weight loss?
- Non tender neck lump?
- Referred otalgia?



Refer to ENT