

Follow-up arrangements

In those who have had chest x-ray changes noted, it is recommended that a repeat chest x-ray is done **around six weeks after the initial infection** as it can take this long for the x-ray changes to fully resolve.

You should come to the X-ray department at Leighton Hospital or Victoria Infirmary, Northwich the week beginning:

You do not need a specific appointment and can come to have your repeat x-ray on any date and time after this date.

We will write to you with the result if all is well.

If things are not significantly improving, we will arrange to see you in our respiratory clinic to see what further tests may be needed.

If you do not hear from us within two weeks of having the x-ray, please contact the Respiratory secretaries on 01270 612008 / 01270 612419.

More information is available via The British Lung Foundation
Website: <https://www.blf.org.uk/support-for-you/pneumonia/what-is-pneumonia>

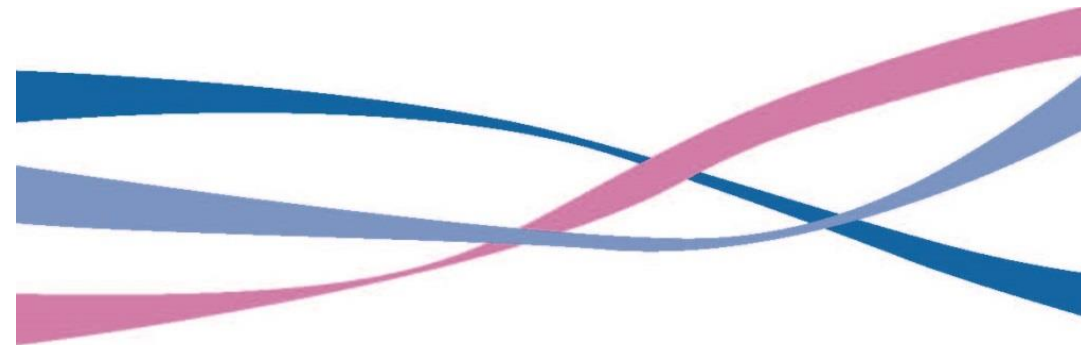
This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy, please ask a member of staff.

Produced by the Respiratory Department



Pneumonia and what to expect after discharge

Important information for patients



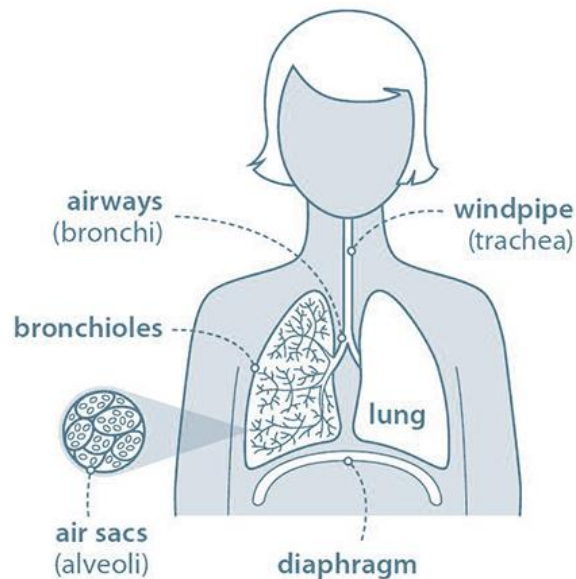
What is pneumonia?

Pneumonia is inflammation of the lung tissue, normally caused by infection with a bacteria or virus.

In patients who are well, treatment with antibiotics can be given as an outpatient and usually leads to a full recovery.

In patients who are unwell, recovery can be longer and sometimes requires hospital admission.

In severe cases pneumonia can be life threatening.



How do you get pneumonia?

In the UK, pneumonia affects around 0.5 to 1% of adults each year.

Pneumonia can affect people of any age, but it's more common, and can be more serious, in certain groups of people, such as the very young or the elderly.

Other people at risk include those who:

- have a low immunity
- are heavy alcohol drinkers
- are taking immunosuppressive medication
- have diabetes

Current smokers are approximately five to six times more likely to get pneumonia than non-smokers.

What happens after being treated?

Symptoms often start improving after two to three days of treatment. There is usually no need to stay in hospital for a whole period of antibiotic treatment once your temperature has settled.

You should expect that:

- Within 48 hours of starting antibiotics, the temperature is starting to settle.
- After one week your fever should be gone.
- After four weeks your chest will feel better and you will produce less phlegm.
- After six weeks you will be coughing less and finding it easier to breathe, if not then please see your GP.
- By three months most of your symptoms will be gone, but you may still feel tired.
- By six months you should feel back to normal.

If a temperature comes back again despite antibiotics, or you get more breathlessness or chest pain, please see your GP or return to the local Accident & Emergency Department.