Pneumonia In Children

Your child has pneumonia. This is an infection of the lungs that may be caused by either a bacteria or a virus. The symptoms of pneumonia include fever, chills, cough, chest pain, and breathing difficulty. Chest x-rays and blood or sputum tests help show how serious the illness is and identify the best treatment to follow.

Pneumonia due to a bacterial infection requires 1-2 weeks of antibiotic drug treatment. Only take other over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver. Cough medicine may also be used if recommended by your caregiver. A cool mist humidifier can help relieve coughing and make the phlegm easier to bring up. Encourage plenty of clear liquids. Warm liquids may also help relieve cough spasms. Avoid exposing your child to cigarette smoke.

Have your child seen for follow-up care as recommended by your caregiver. You should see some improvement within 2 days of starting treatment. Full recovery may take 2-3 weeks.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF YOUR CHILD DEVELOPS:

- More labored or grunting breathing.
- A blue color around the lips.
- Worsening fever or fever that does not go away despite giving your child acetaminophen.
- Repeated vomiting, or becomes dehydrated or exhausted.

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