ARTI >1 to <28 days, no antibiotics in previous 28 days, AND need for antibiotics as judged by the GP

Baseline data collection in all eligible individuals

Fulfilled inclusion criteria, no exclusion criteria & informed consent

Randomisation

Standard group

Initiation of antibiotic treatment according to evidence-based guidelines

ProCT group

Day 0 Initiation of antibiotic treatment according to evidence-based guidelines & ProCT level (µg/l).

Recommendations:

- <0.1: NO antibiotic treatment!
- 0.1-0.25: no antibiotic treatment
- >0.25: antibiotic treatment

Day 1 for patients not on antibiotics: Follow-up by GP with re-measurement of ProCT

Day 3 for patients on antibiotics: Follow-up by GP with re-measurement of ProCT

Recommendations according to ProCT level (µg/l); Initiate, stop or continue antibiotics based on the same cut-offs as defined above

Continuation of antibiotic therapy according to type of antibiotic and guideline-recommendations for treatment duration; Additional follow-up by GP according to clinical judgement

Day 7 for all patients: Follow-up by GP with final measurement of ProCT

Day 14 Phone Interview I

Day 28 Phone Interview II