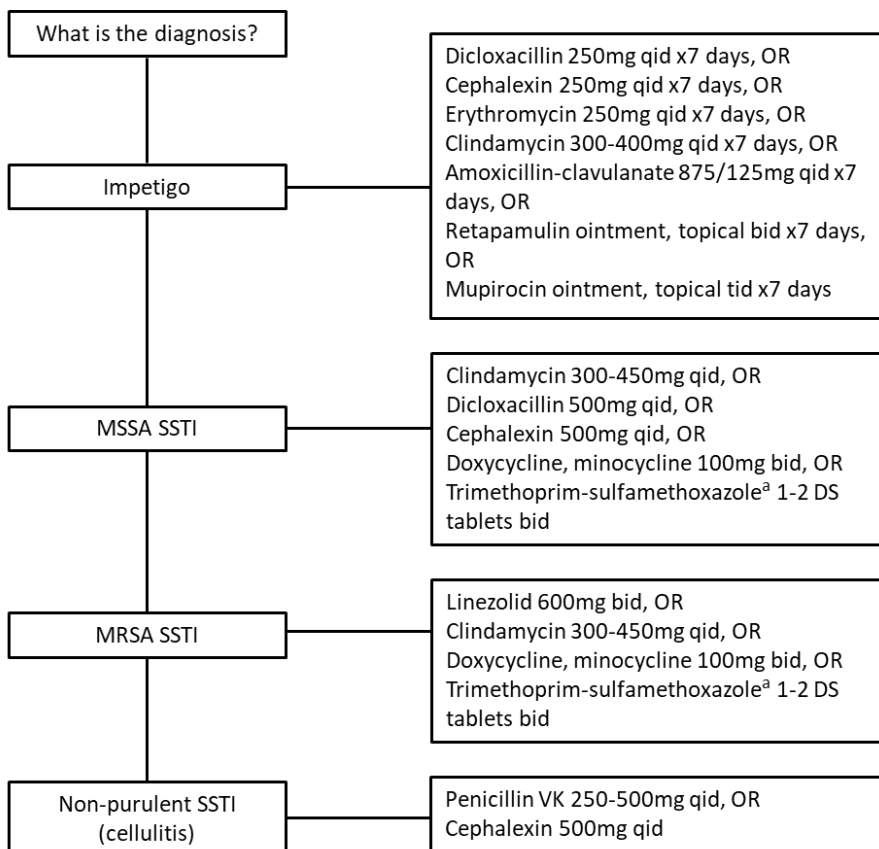


Appropriate Prescribing Guidelines in the Outpatient Setting: *Streptococcal* and *Staphylococcal* Skin and Soft Tissue Infections (SSTIs) in Adults

TREATMENT^{1,2}

NOTE: Length of treatment is 5-10 days unless otherwise noted. As long as patients appear to improve, stopping at 5 days is appropriate as they will continue to improve after antibiotics are stopped. All routes of administration are oral unless otherwise noted.



^aMultiple studies published after most recent IDSA guidelines showed higher cure rates for SSTIs among patients who received trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole in addition to abscess incision and drainage

EPIDEMIOLOGY/ETIOLOGY¹

- Incidence of SSTIs increasing in people of all ages
- Impetigo usually caused by *Staphylococcus* or *Streptococcus*
- Non-purulent infections (i.e., cellulitis) usually caused by *Streptococcus* spp.
- Purulent infections (i.e., abscesses) usually caused by MRSA/MSSA

DIAGNOSIS¹

- No reliable lab/imaging tests – rely on clinical diagnosis
- Venous stasis may appear similar to SSTIs, so careful examination is important in the elderly. Symptoms of SSTIs include redness, heat, pain, induration, etc.
- Skin swabs are not useful for non-purulent infections
- The most important intervention for cutaneous abscesses is incision and drainage. Fluid should be sent for Gram stain and culture.

Learn more about antibiotic stewardship practices and prescribing guidelines at <https://hip.phila.gov/HAIAR/IP-C>

References:

1. Stevens DL, Bisno AL, Chambers HF, Dellinger EP, Goldstein EJC et al. Practice guidelines for the diagnosis and management of skin and soft tissue infections: 2014 update by the Infectious Diseases Society of America. *Clin Infect Dis*, Vol 59, Issue 2, 15 July 2014, Pages e10-e52. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/civ114>
2. Talan DA, Mower WR, Krishnadasan A, Abrahamian FM, et al. Trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole versus placebo for uncomplicated skin abscesses. *N Engl J Med*, Volume 374, 3 March 2016, Pages 823-832. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa1507476>