

## What you're FEELING...

**Community-acquired pneumonia may cause some or all of the following symptoms:**

- Cough, sometimes with phlegm
- Fever
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Tiredness (fatigue)
- Sweats
- Chills
- Nausea



## WHAT IS MILD TO MODERATE COMMUNITY-ACQUIRED PNEUMONIA (CAP)?

CAP is a serious infection of one or both lungs. The infection may cause fluid to accumulate in the air sacs of the lungs, the place where oxygen enters and carbon dioxide leaves the blood.

### What causes CAP?

CAP is most often caused by very small organisms called bacteria. CAP is an infection caused by bacteria commonly found in the "community" instead of the hospital. There are several kinds of bacteria that may cause community-acquired pneumonia; the most common is *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (STREP-toe-KAW-kus new-MOE-nee-ay).

### How can I tell if I have CAP?

Only your doctor can tell if you have CAP. Your doctor will listen to your lungs and may take an x-ray of your chest to help determine if you have pneumonia.

### How is CAP treated?

Bacteria that causes CAP can generally be eliminated by antibiotics.

### How serious is pneumonia?

Pneumonia can be very serious if not treated properly. In fact, pneumonia is a leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of death by an infectious disease in the US. Elderly people and people with a medical condition (like HIV disease) or taking a medication that suppresses the immune system should be especially careful with pneumonia.

### My symptoms are gone and I feel better; can I stop taking my antibiotic?

Don't stop taking your medicine until it's all gone. Otherwise, the bacteria that caused the infection might grow back again. If this happens, the bacteria that grow back may be stronger, and the same antibiotic may not work as well if you have to take it again. This is called antibiotic resistance.