

- Implementing C-reactive protein (CRP) testing for respiratory tract infections in primary care is being explored as a strategy to reduce antibiotic prescribing rates, and potentially reduce antibiotic resistant infections.
- Three CRP point-of-care testing strategies were compared to current practice to estimate their cost effectiveness over a three-year period in the National Health Service (NHS) in England: General practitioner (GP) plus CRP testing; practice nurse plus CRP testing; GP plus CRP testing and communication skills training
- This study is the first cost-effectiveness analysis of CRP point-of-care testing delivered in primary care in the UK.
- Both the GP plus CRP testing and the practice nurse plus CRP testing strategies were associated with an increased number of quality-adjusted life years, in combination with reduced antibiotic prescribing and lower reported infection rates, with a total reduced cost per patient over 3 years
- Since these benefits are greater than the associated increased cost per patient, CRP testing represents a cost-effective option for the English NHS.

This summary slide represents the opinions of the authors. Sponsorship for this study was funded by Alere. Editorial assistance was provided by Toby Galbraith, PhD, and Charlotte Simpson, PhD, of IMC Healthcare Communication Ltd (London, UK), funded by Alere. For a full list of acknowledgments and conflicts of interest for all authors of this article, please see the full text online. Copyright © The Author 2015. Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License (CC BY-NC).