

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**  
University of London  
**Examination for internal students**

For the following qualifications  
B.Sc (intercal)

Health Sciences C113

**Paper title: Critical appraisal of primary care practice**

Using the papers you have already been given prior to the exam to answer the following question.

**This paper is only 90 minutes long.**

You are a general practitioner in north London with a large number of children in your practice population.

Mrs Chadwick, a 45 year old science teacher, brings her 7 year daughter Sophie to see you. Sophie has had a fever and sore throat for 4 days and is not getting any better. She has no other symptoms of an upper respiratory tract infection. On examination you find that Sophie has large tender cervical nodes and large tonsils but no exudate. You decide to treat her with analgesics but not with antibiotics, according to your recently developed practice policy based on a paper by Zwart et al in the British Medical Journal (1).

Mrs Chadwick is very unhappy about your decision and worried about Sophie losing more days from school. She is also concerned that one of Sophie's friends recently had scarlet fever after not being given penicillin for a sore throat.

**Discuss how you would reach a decision with Mrs Chadwick based on Zwart's paper.**

1 Zwart S, Rovers M, de Melker R A , Hoes A W. Penicillin for acute sore throat in children: randomized, double blind trial. British Medical Journal 2003; 327: 1324-6