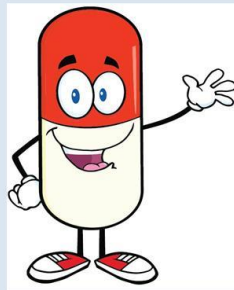


# 6 Smart Facts About Antibiotic Use



- 1 Antibiotics are life-saving drugs.
- 2 Antibiotics only treat bacterial infections.
- 3 Some ear infections do not require an antibiotic.
- 4 Most sore throats do not require an antibiotic.
- 5 Green colored mucus is not a sign that an antibiotic is needed.
- 6 There are potential risks when taking any prescription drug.

Talk to your healthcare provider about when and how to safely use antibiotics.

Visit <http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/antibiotics/campaign.html> for more information.



# Antibiotics are Not Always the Answer:

## An Important Message from your Clinicians

Dear Patient,

We want to give you some important information about antibiotics.

**Antibiotics only fight infections caused by bacteria.**

**Antibiotics will NOT help you feel better if you have a viral infection like:**

- ⇒ Cold or runny nose
- ⇒ Bronchitis or chest cold
- ⇒ Flu

**If you take antibiotics when you do not need them, they can cause more harm than good:**

- ⇒ You might feel worse.
- ⇒ You can get diarrhea, rashes, or yeast infections.
- ⇒ Antibiotics may NOT work when you really need them, because antibiotics make bacteria more resistant to them. This can make future infections harder to treat.

**What can you do as a patient?** Talk with me about the treatment that is best for you. Follow the treatment plans we discuss.

**As your clinician,** I will give you the best care possible. I am dedicated to avoid prescribing antibiotics when they are likely to do more harm than good. If you have any questions, please ask me, your nurse, or your pharmacist.



Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature

Signature



Facility Logo



# Prescribing an Antibiotic?

**Ask yourself these questions before prescribing an antibiotic for a patient:**



Did I document an indication for the antibiotic in the patient chart?



Is this an optimal antibiotic for the patient?



Is the antibiotic at the correct dose?



Is the duration appropriate?

In the US, there are **23,000 deaths** and **2 million illnesses** each year caused by antibiotic resistance. It is estimated that **47 million antibiotics** that are written each year are unnecessary. Antibiotic resistance is everyone's problem. Do your part and promote antibiotic stewardship.

**The best care is the right care.**

Visit <http://epi.ncpublichealth.info/cd/antibiotics/campaign.html> for more information.

