



# A Commitment to Our Patients about Antibiotics

## What we will do as your healthcare team

Your health is important to your care team. When you have an illness, we promise to provide the best possible treatment for your condition. If an antibiotic is not needed, or would do more harm than good, we will explain this to you and offer other treatments that are better for you.

### Antibiotics only fight infections caused by bacteria

- Antibiotics will not help an illness caused by a virus (like the common cold or flu).
- If you're sick from a virus and you take antibiotics, you won't get better and you may develop bad side effects.
- Antibiotics should only be taken when necessary.
- Buying medications that won't help you is a waste of your money.

### Problems with using antibiotics

Antibiotic use may make bacteria resistant, making future infections harder to treat.

Possible side effects include:

- Skin rashes
- Diarrhea (including *C. difficile* which can be serious and difficult to treat)
- Yeast infections

### What you should do

How can you help?

- If you are prescribed an antibiotic, take as directed.
- If you are not prescribed an antibiotic and don't understand why not, discuss your concerns with us.

### Our Promise

As your healthcare provider, we promise to provide the best possible treatment for your condition. We are dedicated to prescribing antibiotics only when they are needed, and we will avoid giving you antibiotics when they might do more harm than good.

**If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.**



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