

## ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK HIGHLIGHTS APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND USE

Antibiotic Awareness Week is November 18-24, 2020, and is observed to raise awareness on the appropriate use and prescribing of antibiotics. Antibiotics are one of the most commonly prescribed drugs today.

Antibiotics are critical in saving lives and treating infections. However, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an estimated 47 million courses of antibiotics are unnecessarily prescribed each year for nonbacterial type infections, such as the cold or flu. Inappropriate prescribing of antibiotics can lead to side effects and antibiotic resistance.

The CDC works to improve antibiotic prescribing and educating patients about the importance of appropriate use. Helpful resources are available from the CDC on various antibiotic topics, including antibiotic stewardship and antibiotic resistance.

For the latest information and educational materials on a variety of antibiotic topics, please visit the CDC website at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

### Highmark Antibiotic Resources

Highmark provides informational antibiotic resources for your staff and to share with your patients. You can order printed copies to make available to your patients during office visits or for mailing to their homes.

The following materials are available to view and order on the Provider Resource Center:

- [Antibiotic FAQs – Know Antibiotics Aren't Always Needed](#)
- [Antibiotics Aren't Always the Answer Flyer](#)

To access and order these resources, select **EDUCATION/MANUALS** from the main menu on the Provider Resource Center, and then click on **Educational Resources – Member and Provider** in the submenu.