

Antibiotics aren't always the answer.

If you or your child start feeling under the weather, you may wonder if an antibiotic is needed. Talk to your doctor about your symptoms and keep these tips in mind:



- **Antibiotics only treat infections caused by bacteria**, like strep throat and pneumonia.
- **Antibiotics don't work against viruses**, like the common cold, the flu, early sinus infections, and acute bronchitis.
- **Taking an antibiotic when you don't need it can cause antibiotic resistance.**
That means in the future, if you really need an antibiotic, it may not work.
- **If your doctor does prescribe an antibiotic, take it correctly.**
Closely following usage directions will help to avoid antibiotic resistance.



If you have specific questions about antibiotics, or start to develop side effects, reach out to your doctor.

This information is intended to provide general information only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health provider regarding your medical condition(s). Coverage for medical services described herein is subject to the terms of your health plan benefit agreement and network coverage varies by plan. Check your member materials for details.

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