

What you need to know about antibiotics



Because Life.™



Common questions about what these drugs can and can't do.

What kinds of infections do antibiotics treat?

Antibiotics only work on infections caused by bacteria. If your health care provider determines you need antibiotics, take them exactly as they are prescribed.

Do antibiotics work for viruses?

No, they don't work on infections caused by viruses such as colds, the flu, and bronchitis.

Do antibiotics have side effects?

Yes, they can cause side effects like:

- Rash
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Yeast infections

What happens when antibiotics are overused?

- It can cause bacteria to change so that these drugs don't work to kill them.
- When bacteria become resistant, it gets harder to find antibiotics to treat the infection they're causing.
- Resistant bacteria can spread to other people.

Work with your health care provider to decide if antibiotics are right for you.



This 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.

Benefits and/or benefit administration may be provided by or through the following entities, which are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association: Western and Northeastern PA: Highmark Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Highmark Choice Company, Highmark Health Insurance Company, Highmark Coverage Advantage Inc., Highmark Benefits Group Inc., First Priority Health, First Priority Life or Highmark Senior Health Company. **Your plan may not cover all your health care expenses. Read your plan materials carefully to determine which health care services are covered. For more information, call the number on the back of your member ID card or, if not a member, call 866-459-4418.**

Delaware: Highmark BCBSD Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield.

West Virginia: Highmark West Virginia Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Highmark Health Insurance Company or Highmark Senior Solutions Company. **Visit <https://www.highmarkbcswv.com/NetworkAccessPlan> to view the Access Plan required by the Health Benefit Plan Network Access and Adequacy Act. You may also request a copy by contacting us at the number on the back of your ID card.**

Western NY: Highmark Western and Northeastern New York Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield is a Medicare Advantage HMO, PPO, and/or Part D plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in these plans depends on contract renewal.

All references to "Highmark" in this document are references to the Highmark company that is providing the member's health benefits or health benefit administration and/or to one or more of its affiliated Blue companies.

The Claims Administrator/Insurer complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

ATENCIÓN: Si usted habla español, servicios de asistencia lingüística, de forma gratuita, están disponibles para usted. Llame al número en la parte posterior de su tarjeta de identificación (TTY: 711).

请注意：如果您说中文，可向您提供免费语言协助服务。
请拨打您的身份证背面的号码（TTY：711）。



Because Life.™