

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

PRESCRIBING ANTIBIOTICS

As we approach Antibiotic Awareness Week (November 18-24, 2021), Highmark wants to take this opportunity to raise awareness on the appropriate use and prescribing of antibiotics.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found more than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur in the U.S. each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result. Highmark and the CDC are urging providers to prescribe antibiotics only when necessary. This will help fight antibiotic resistance and the spread of superbugs to better protect members from antibiotic-related adverse drug events.

To improve antibiotic prescribing and better educate our members about the importance of appropriate use, both Highmark and the CDC have made resources available for your review on topics such as antibiotic stewardship and resistance. These resources include:

- Highmark Resources:
 - [Antibiotic FAQs – Know Antibiotics Aren't Always Needed](#)
 - [Antibiotics Aren't Always the Answer Flyer](#)
 - [Antibiotics Toolkit: When a Patient Insists on Taking an Antibiotic](#)

- CDC Resources
 - [Be Antibiotics Aware](#)
 - [Improving Outpatient Antibiotic Prescribing: A Toolkit for Healthcare Payers](#)
 - [Improving Antibiotic Use to Treat Tuberculosis](#)
 - [Improving Antibiotic Use to Treat Gonorrhea](#)
 - [Improving Diagnosis of Valley Fever](#)

You can order printed copies of all of Highmark's available trackers and tools to share with members during office visits from the Educational Resources – Member and Provider page on the Provider Resource Center.

