



What to Ask Your Healthcare Provider about Antibiotics

Antibiotic resistance is a growing problem, both in the United States and across the world. An important driver of antibiotic resistance is the overuse of antibiotics. When antibiotics are used correctly, you get the best effect on your health, your family's health, and the health of those around you. Here are some questions to ask your healthcare provider about antibiotics.



Questions to Ask your Healthcare Provider Before Asking for an Antibiotic

1. Could my symptoms be caused by something other than bacteria (e.g., a virus or something that is not an infection)?
2. What signs or symptoms should I look for that could mean I might need an antibiotic?
3. Can I be monitored to see if my symptoms improve with other remedies, without using antibiotics?



Questions to Ask your Healthcare Provider When you are Prescribed an Antibiotic

1. What infection is the antibiotic treating and how do you know I have that infection?
2. What side effects might occur from this antibiotic?
3. Could any of my other medications interact with this antibiotic?
4. How will I be monitored to know whether my illness is responding to the antibiotic?

