

APPROPRIATE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS

While antibiotics are valuable, life-saving drugs, it is important to use them responsibly and judiciously for infection prevention and control. Inappropriate or excessive use can contribute to the development of resistance.

HOW TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS:

Must be prescribed by healthcare professionals: you should only use antibiotics under the supervision of a healthcare professional. Your doctor will evaluate your condition, consider the potential benefits and risks, and prescribe antibiotics when necessary.

It is a treatment for bacterial infections: antibiotics are specifically designed to treat bacterial infections. They are not effective against virus infections, such as influenza or common cold.

Follow the prescribed dosage and duration: it is essential to take antibiotics, as prescribed by the doctor, following the recommended dosage and duration. It is important to complete the treatment, even if symptoms improve or "disappear". Stopping antibiotics earlier may lead to incomplete elimination of bacteria and may contribute to antibiotic resistance.



Avoid sharing or self-medicating: do not share antibiotics with others or use antibiotics left over from previous treatments. Everyone's condition is unique, and antibiotic use should be tailored to the specific infection and person. Self-medication or use of antibiotics without a prescription is not correct, as you may experience side effects.

Use them for serious infections: Antibiotics should be reserved for the treatment of serious bacterial infections that cannot be resolved without them. Using them indiscriminately for minor conditions can contribute to antibiotic resistance and reduce the effectiveness of these drugs when you really need them.

**IN CASE OF DOUBT, TALK TO
YOUR DOCTOR OR A PHARMACIST
ABOUT THE CORRECT USE
OF ANTIBIOTICS.**



For more information, please contact the preventive & Educational Community Services Unit at 787.277.6571



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