

Taking Your Antibiotics



**BE
ANTIBIOTICS
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

You have just filled a prescription for antibiotics.

READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

- Take it exactly as your healthcare professional tells you.

- Do not skip doses.

- Do not share it with others.

- Do not save it for later. Talk to your pharmacist about safely discarding leftover medicines.

If you have questions about your antibiotics, talk with your doctor.

WHY IS THIS CHECKLIST SO IMPORTANT?

All medicines can have side effects. You can protect yourself and others by learning when antibiotics are and are not needed. Common side effects of antibiotics can include:



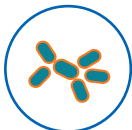
Rash



Dizziness



Nausea



Yeast infections



Diarrhea

More serious side effects include *Clostridioides difficile* infection (also called *C. difficile* or *C. diff*), which causes diarrhea that can lead to severe colon damage and death. People can also have severe and life-threatening allergic reactions.

Antibiotics save lives. When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects.

1 out of 5

medication-related visits to the ED are from reactions to antibiotics.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use.

