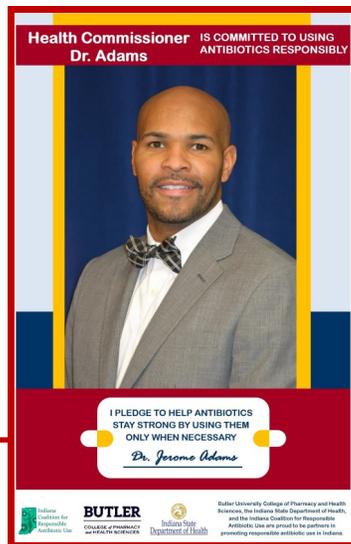


Why Am I Seeing These Posters?

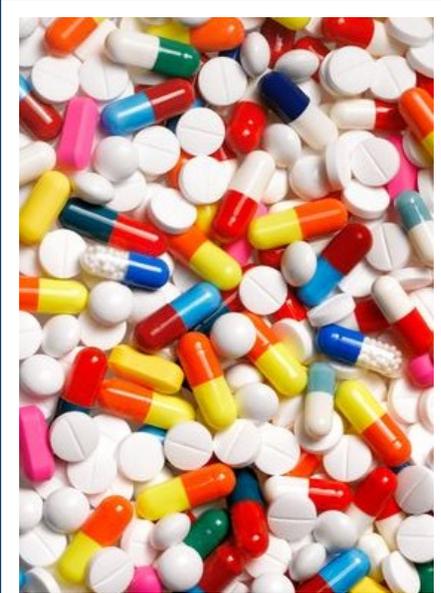
While antibiotics can be very helpful, misusing them can cause these medications to not work as well against the bacteria that they are meant to treat. To prevent this from happening, it is important to spread awareness on when antibiotics should and shouldn't be used. Your healthcare provider has chosen to commit to using antibiotics only when they are appropriate, which can lead to better patient outcomes and a safer healthcare environment.



The Indiana Coalition for Responsible Antibiotic Use, the Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Indiana State Department of Health have joined together to encourage patients and prescribers to use antibiotics appropriately.



Preventing Antibiotic Resistance



What You and Your Doctor Can Do To Help

The Facts on Antibiotics and Resistant Bacteria

How do antibiotics work?



- Antibiotics help our bodies fight certain types of infections.
- Antibiotics fight against infections caused by bacteria.
- Infections like the flu and the common cold are caused by viruses. This means that antibiotics can't help our body fight them off.
- Although antibiotics can be useful, they can cause side effects such as severe diarrhea and allergic reactions.

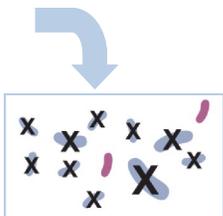


How do bacteria become resistant to antibiotics?

Bacteria are said to be “resistant” when they no longer respond to medications that should kill them. How bacteria become resistant is shown below:



A few of these germs are drug resistant



Antibiotics kill the bacteria that caused the illness, leaving the resistant germs



The resistant germs multiply

Symptoms	Viral	Bacterial	Antibiotic?
Cold/Runny Nose	✓		NO
Bronchitis/Chest Cold	✓		NO
Whooping Cough		✓	YES
Flu	✓		NO
Sore Throat	✓		NO
Strep Throat		✓	YES
Fluid in Middle Ear	✓		NO
Urinary Tract Infection		✓	YES

From the Centers for Disease Control—“Antibiotics Aren’t Always the Answer”

Antibiotics can be helpful. If antibiotics are used for viral infections, good bacteria in our bodies are killed instead of viruses. This allows resistant bacteria to multiply. The chart above helps show when antibiotics should be used.

How can bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics be harmful?

- The way one person uses an antibiotic can affect other people. As more people develop resistant infections, the quicker they spread.
- When bacteria are resistant to an antibiotic, doctors have to use other medicines that may be a less ideal treatment and cause more side effects.
- Some bacteria are becoming resistant to all antibiotics.

How Can You Help?

Your doctor is committed to using antibiotics responsibly. To help them meet this goal you can:

1. Ask your doctor what the best treatment is for your type of infection

By understanding that some illnesses cannot be treated by antibiotics we can help our doctors use these medications appropriately.

2. If you are prescribed an antibiotic, ask if it is the most “targeted” to your type of infection

You can serve as a reminder to your doctor when you are prescribed an antibiotic. By choosing the most targeted antibiotic, your doctor can treat your infection while preventing unnecessary side effects.

3. Ask your doctor what medicines you can use for symptom relief

Many medications can help with symptoms of a viral infection. If you do not need an antibiotic, your doctor may be able to recommend other medicines that can help you feel better.