

Fast Facts on Antibiotics

- Antibiotics don't work for viruses that cause colds, flu and bronchitis
- Overuse of antibiotics creates resistant bacteria
- Infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria are hard to treat and can be serious

What You Can Do

- Rest
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen for fever/pain
- Use a vaporizer or saline nose drops
- See your doctor if symptoms don't improve in 10-14 days.
- Let your doctor decide if you need an antibiotic.

**Save the Antibiotic.
Don't Use It When You Don't Need It.**

Save the Antibiotic.

ILLNESS	USUAL CAUSE		ANTIBIOTIC NEEDED?
	Virus	Bacteria	
Bronchitis	X		No
Chest cold	X		No
Cold	X		No
"Flu"	X		No
Green/yellow runny nose	X		No
Middle ear infection	X	X	Sometimes
Sinus infection	X	X	Sometimes
Strep throat		X	Yes