



## Information for Your Patients

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Gaps in care Outreach  
Topic:  
**Antibiotic Awareness**

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Link 1  
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### U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week is November 18-24, 2023.

USAAW is an annual observance that raises awareness of the threat of antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic use.

Take antibiotics ONLY if you need them.

### Antibiotics ONLY treat certain infections caused by bacteria, such as:

- Strep throat
- Whooping cough
- Urinary tract infection (UTI)

### Antibiotics DO NOT work on viruses, such as those that cause:

- Colds and runny noses, even if the mucus is thick, yellow, or green
- Most sore throats (except strep throat)
- Flu
- Most cases of chest colds (bronchitis)

### Antibiotics also ARE NOT needed for some common bacterial infections, including:

- Many sinus infections
- Some ear infections

Taking antibiotics when they're not needed won't help you, and their side effects can still cause harm. Your doctor can decide the best treatment for you when you're sick. Never pressure your doctor to prescribe an antibiotic.

How can taking antibiotics contribute to antimicrobial resistance?

When antibiotics are needed, the benefits usually outweigh the risks of antimicrobial resistance. However, too many antibiotics are being used unnecessarily and misused, which threatens the usefulness of these important drugs.

**\*\*Contact your UOP PCP today! \*\***

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