



Be An Antibiotic HERO

4 things you need to know about antibiotics

- 1 Antibiotics are drugs that kill bacteria not viruses like the flu and common cold.** Using antibiotics when they are not needed may make bacteria become resistant. This means the bacteria learn how to stop antibiotics from being able to kill them or stop their growth. At Randolph Health, we only give antibiotics when they are needed. This helps lower the chance of bacteria becoming resistant.
- 2 Antibiotics aren't for every sickness** because some are caused by a virus. Antibiotics cannot kill a virus. You have to treat the symptoms to feel better. A lab test is done to see if you are sick from a bacteria. You may have a blood or urine (pee) test. It can take up to 3 days to know if a bacteria is making you sick.
- 3 Antibiotics are given for the shortest time needed.**
 - o If your lab test does **not** show bacteria, your doctor may stop your antibiotic.
 - o If your lab test **does** show bacteria, your doctor may change your antibiotic. You will get the right drug to kill the bacteria.
 - o Always finish the full amount of antibiotic that your doctor orders.
- 4 Antibiotics can cause side effects.** Tell your doctor or nurse right away if you have trouble breathing or have a rash. Talk to your doctor if you have loose stools or are throwing up.