

Know When Antibiotics Work

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The discovery of antibiotics was one of the greatest medical achievements of the twentieth century. However, overuse of these drugs has led to increased development of antibiotic resistance in bacteria, making it more difficult or even impossible for antibiotics to combat the bacteria. As a consequence, some infections can result in serious illness or even death. In most cases, colds, ear infections, and the flu should not be treated with antibiotics.

If you've been diagnosed with an infectious illness, talk to your healthcare professional about whether antibiotics will be beneficial and if there are other ways to treat your condition. If an antibiotic is prescribed, take it as directed.

Learn more about appropriate antibiotic use and how to feel better when you don't need an antibiotic by visiting CDC's Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work website at [cdc.gov/getsmart/community](https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community).

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.