



# I care about your health. That's why I'm committed to prescribing antibiotics only when you need them.

## I won't prescribe antibiotics when they are unlikely to work.

Antibiotics can cure a lot of infections... but antibiotics don't work against viruses that cause the common cold, most coughs, and most sore throats.

## I will consider how an antibiotic may harm you.

- Taking antibiotics increase the risk of antibiotic resistant bacteria (superbugs).
- You could experience side effects like harder-to-treat infection, skin rashes, allergic reaction, upset stomach, or diarrhea (which can be life-threatening).

## How can you help?

- If you get an antibiotic, take it as prescribed.
- Don't save antibiotics or give them to someone else.

***If you have questions about why you are not getting an antibiotic, ask me, your nurse, or your pharmacist.***

*For more information about appropriate use of antibiotics visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).*



 **BOUNDARY**  
**Community Clinics**  
a division of Boundary Community Hospital



[www.medicare.qualishealth.org](http://www.medicare.qualishealth.org)

This material was prepared by Qualis Health, the Medicare Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) for Idaho and Washington, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

Material adapted from: Meeker D, Knight TK, Friedberg MW, et al. JAMA Intern Med. 2014;174(3):425-431. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2013.14191 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work materials. <https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/index.html>.