

APPROPRIATE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS FOR VIRAL RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

Key Measures:

Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Acute Bronchitis/Bronchiolitis (AAB)

Appropriate Treatment for Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Appropriate use of antibiotics for individuals with acute nasopharyngitis, acute laryngopharyngitis, acute upper respiratory infection, and acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis will help them avoid harmful side-effects and possible resistance to antibiotics over time. Antibiotic resistance is a major health concern in the United States, with 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections and 35,000 deaths occurring annually.

How can our Providers prescribe appropriate treatment for viral infections?

- Reduce unnecessary use of antibiotics.
- Antibiotic treatment should be reserved for a bacterial illness. Because colds are viral infections, antibiotic use will not cure or shorten their length.
- Management of the common cold, nonspecific URI, and acute cough illness should focus on symptomatic relief.
- Inform and educate Members on the appropriate use of antibiotic treatment.



What is EPH doing to improve proper antibiotic use?

- Partner with providers to reinforce education on appropriate antibiotic use through text message and social media campaigns
- Provide reports showing compliance with appropriate antibiotic utilization for viral infections
- Provide members with a supportive Case Management Team that can provide further education
- 24-hour, 7-days-a-week access to FIRSTCALL, a bilingual Medical Advice Infoline staffed by nurses, pharmacists, and a Medical Director on call.

Up to date night clinic and urgent care fliers are available on the EPH website.



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