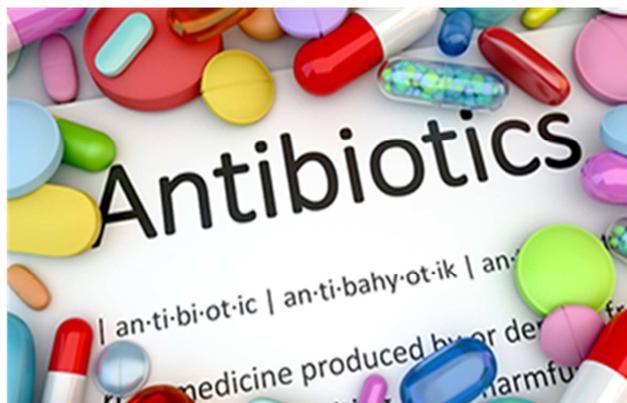


Antibiotics Information for Patients and Carers



Name: _____

Who to contact and how: _____

Notes: _____

Diana, Princess of Wales
Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Information for patients

Introduction - What are antibiotics used for?

Antibiotics are prescribed either to treat infections caused by bacteria or occasionally, to prevent such infections. Different types of antibiotics are used to treat different kinds of infection. In the UK, most antibiotics are only available on prescription.

How the Medicine Works

Antibiotics work by either killing the bacteria, or stopping them from increasing in number. They don't work against infections caused by viruses such as common colds, flu, most coughs or sore throats.

Benefits

When prescribed and taken correctly, antibiotics will help to treat and shorten the duration of bacterial infections.

Risks

Misuse of antibiotics causes bacteria to become resistant to antibiotic treatments meaning that, if you need antibiotics in the future, they may not work.

Misuse may also cause healthcare acquired infections, such as Clostridium difficile or Meticillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), which are difficult to treat and may be very serious.

How and When to Take Antibiotics

Antibiotics are given for a specific period of time - often five days - and you will need to take them at regular, specified intervals during the day (it is not necessary to wake up especially to take them during the night).

Always take them as directed by your Doctor and **do not stop taking them early, even if your symptoms improve. Bacteria may still be in the body even when you are feeling better, so it is important to finish the full course of antibiotics.** This will make it less likely for the infection to return.

Many antibiotics cannot be taken with certain foods or drinks because they make the antibiotic less effective, reducing the chances of a full recovery. Refer to the leaflet which comes with your prescription for further information or ask your pharmacist or doctor.

Possible Side Effects of Antibiotics

Side effects are mostly mild and temporary unwanted effects of a successful treatment. The most common side effects of antibiotics are diarrhoea, feeling sick and vomiting. After treatment with certain antibiotics, you might get a fungal infection such as thrush.

Information for patients

Allergic Reactions

Most antibiotic reactions are side effects, rather than true allergies, e.g. nausea, or diarrhoea.

Unlike allergies, side effects do not prevent you from having the antibiotic again in the future.

If you are allergic to antibiotics, you may get symptoms such as a rash and itching or, in severe cases, difficulty breathing. If you experience difficulty breathing, you should ring for an ambulance straight away.

If you think you have had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic before, always tell your Doctor or Pharmacist before treatment.

Interactions with Other Medicines

Medicines can affect or be affected by other medicines or herbal remedies. Check with your Doctor or Pharmacist about drug interactions if you have any concerns.

Other Information

Do not take medicines prescribed for another person or give yours to friends, family or pets and do not keep left-over antibiotics. If your pack contains more doses than your course requires, ask your Pharmacist about how to dispose of the remainder. Please return any unused medicines that are no longer needed to any Pharmacy for safe disposal.

Speak to your Doctor before taking an antibiotic if you know you have any liver or kidney problems.

Tell your Doctor or Pharmacist if you are or are planning to become pregnant or plan to breast feed before taking any antibiotic.

Further Information

If you have any questions or other concerns about your medicines please do not hesitate to contact your Doctor, Pharmacist or Nurse.

If you feel that any problems you are having are possibly caused by your medicines, inform your Doctor or Pharmacist as soon as possible.

Please return any unused medicines that are no longer needed to your Pharmacy for safe disposal.

A leaflet which explains your medicine can be found within most medicine packets. We also recommend the following websites for further information on your medicines:

<https://patient.info/health/antibiotics-leaflet>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/antibiotics/>

Information for patients

Reference Section

Information for adult patients undergoing antibiotic treatment. West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust. September 2016.

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

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