

Patient inquires about an antibiotic medication

May I ask you a few questions about your symptoms?

- Please describe your symptoms.
- When did the symptoms start?
- Have the same symptoms appeared before?

Consult patient health record or inquire about the following:

- Medical history (comorbidities)
- Allergies or allergy test results
- Current medications (recent antibiotic use)

Assess the need for an antibiotic according to the following:

- Signs and symptoms
- Patient health record
- Clinical guidelines
- Patient preference, cost, convenience

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No, you will not need an antibiotic, but I can recommend you an over-the-counter product and/or a therapeutic option that does not require medications.

Yes, you will need to see your prescriber for an antibiotic prescription.
Remember, antibiotics are only used to treat bacterial infections, not viruses, such as the common cold!

Pharmacist receives an antibiotic prescription

Your prescriber has written an antibiotic prescription for you, may I ask what (s)he said this is for?

May I ask you a few questions about your symptoms?
Consult patient profile for additional relevant health information.

Assess the need for an antibiotic according to the following:

- Signs and symptoms
- Patient health record (comorbidities, medications, recent antibiotic use)
- Antibiotic prescription appropriateness
- Clinical guidelines
- Local resistance patterns (antibiograms)
- Microbiological / diagnostic results
- Patient preference, cost, convenience

"An antibiotic may not be appropriate in your case.

"I will be contacting your prescriber for clarification."

Recommend change(s) using the *Pharmacist Worksheet and Prescriber Notification form*.

Submit a claim for a Pharmaceutical Opinion, if applicable.

Yes, the prescribed antibiotic is appropriate.

Dispense and counsel accordingly.

Educate on the appropriate use of antibiotics.

Prescriber calls in for an antibiotic recommendation

Inquire about the following:

- Who is the patient?
- What are the signs and symptoms?
- What is the diagnosis?
- Are microbiological and/or diagnostic results available?

Consult patient profile for relevant health information.

Assess the need for an antibiotic according to the following:

- Signs and symptoms
- Patient health record (comorbidities, medications, recent antibiotic use)
- Antibiotic indication, dose, frequency, duration, dosage form, and route of administration
- Clinical guidelines
- Antibiograms
- Microbiological / diagnostic results
- Patient preference, cost, convenience

Recommend therapeutic option(s).

Document where appropriate.

Tool for Initiating Discussions