



III. When are antibiotics used to treat urinary tract infections (UTIs)?

- x A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving any part of the urinary system, including urethra, bladder, and kidney.
- x Doctors, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners often use antibiotics to treat UTIs. The most (o t)s)-1-1.73 a

IV. When are antibiotics used to treat lower respiratory tract infections or LRTI?

- x There are many different kinds of respiratory tract infections, such as colds and coughs, the

- x Although we cannot be certain that any of these ~~enbar~~ problems will occur, it is important for you to be aware of them and understand how they may affect you. Knowing this information will also help you recognize any changes in how you feel.
- x There are five potential health problems that occur as a ~~of~~ taking an antibiotic.
  1. The first are allergic reactions, like a rash or swelling. An allergic reaction doesn't often happen, but sometimes it does.
  2. Another problem can be side ~~ef~~ts, such as a stomach up ~~set~~. This happens sometimes, and usually isn't too much of a problem. Mo3 0 Td [(m4( prMtic)6(.)]TJ 0rn)4(I)-

5. The last problem is called antibiotic resistance.

- Antibiotics normally work by killing bacteria or germs. Sometimes not all of the bacteria are killed. The bacteria that were not killed learn how to “resist” the antibiotic so it will have no effect on them. This means a person can get sick again, and this time the bacteria will be harder to kill because the antibiotics no longer work. This is called antibiotic resistance. In other words, the more often you use an antibiotic, the greater the chance that the antibiotic won’t kill the bacteria.
- When resistance develops, your doctor will need to prescribe a different antibiotic to fight your infection. You may have to be tested to see which antibiotic will be most effective for your infection. A sample from your infection will be sent to a lab and tested against a panel of antibiotics to find which treatment is likely to work best for you.
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## VII. What can you do to get the best care for yourself?

### Before Taking an Antibiotic

- x Ask your doctor or a nurse about the benefits and risks.
- x Tell someone, including myself or another nurse, if you want more information—or have concerns—about antibiotics and their risks.
- x Let your doctor and nurses, including myself, know that you want an antibiotic only if it is absolutely necessary.

Note: For a number of reasons, it may be difficult for some residents to ask questions or talk to the doctor and nurses about antibiotics. For these residents, it will be important to close the loop to make sure they understand the information that you have shared with them. This can be done by asking a few simple questions such as—

- x How do you feel about taking an antibiotic?
  - What are you most worried about?
- x How do you feel about not taking an antibiotic?
  - What are you most worried about?
- x What else would you like to know about antibiotics?
- x Would you like to talk with someone else (such as a family member or doctor) about taking an antibiotic?
- x Would you like to talk about other options?
- x Are you confident in my assessment that you have a bacterial infection and that the use of an antibiotic is necessary in this case? What would make you feel more comfortable with this assessment?

### When Taking an Antibiotic

- x When you take an antibiotic, you may experience several side effects such as a rash, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and headaches.
- x If you are (or think you may be) experiencing any of these side effects—or just feel different—let a nurse know immediately. This will help us work together to make sure you are getting the care you need.

