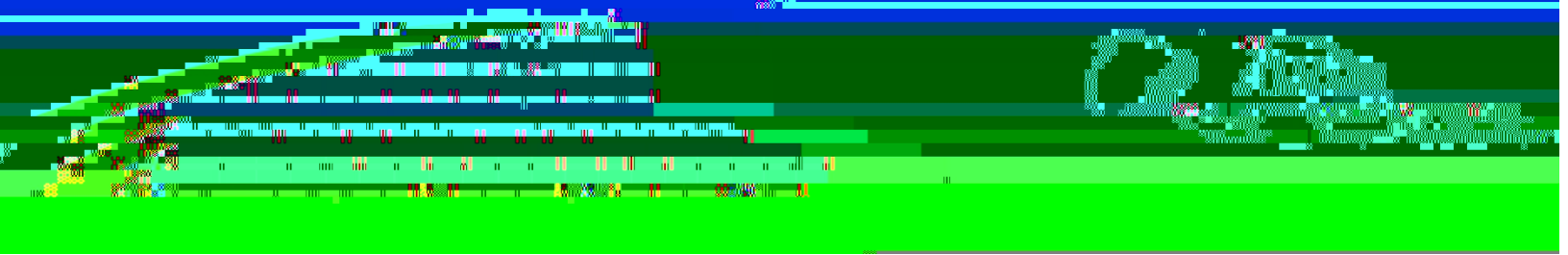


# Nursing Home Antimicrobial Stewardship Guide Educate & Engage Residents, Family

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Tool 2. Talking With Residents' Family Members



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

- x A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving any party of the urinary system, including urethra, bladder, and kidney.
- x Doctors, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners often use antibiotics to treat UTIs.
- x The most common symptoms of UTIs are a burning ~~in~~ when urinating, a strong urge to urinate

IV. When are antibiotics used to treat lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs)?

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

- x

- x Before taking an antibiotic it is important to understand how antibiotics could harm or hurt your family member.
- x Although we cannot be certain that any of these harms or problems will occur, it is important



VII. What can you do to make sure that your family member gets the best care?  
Before Taking an Antibiotic

- x Talk with your family member and his or her doctor about the benefits and risks.
- x Tell someone, such as myself or another staff member, if you want more information—or have concerns—about antibiotics and the risks.
- x You can help your family member and others by making sure they take antibiotics only when they are needed. Make sure the doctor and nurses know that an antibiotic should be prescribed for your family member only if it is absolutely necessary.

*Note:* For a number of reasons, it may be difficult for residents' family members to ask questions or talk to the doctor and nurses about antibiotics. For these family members and the resident, 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 questions such as—

- x How do you feel about your family member taking an antibiotic?
  - What are you most worried about?
- x How do you feel about your family member 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 doctor, about antibiotics?
- x Would you like to talk about other options?

When Taking an Antibiotic

- x When taking an antibiotic, your family member may experience several side effects such as a rash, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, and headaches.
- x If your family member is—or may be—experiencing any of these side effects just feels different—let a nurse know immediately. This will help us work together to make sure he or she is getting the right care.

## VIII. Additional questions about antibiotics

Some residents' family members may want additional information about antibiotics to help them be better informed and able to discuss treatment. If you sense that they want more information, but are not sure what questions to ask, you can provide them with any of the following questions to ask a nurse or doctor:

- x Why is my family member being prescribed an antibiotic?
- x What is this particular antibiotic supposed to do?