

Also, like all medications, antibiotics have side effects.



- If you develop a rash from an antibiotic, please let your healthcare provider know.
- One significant side effect of nearly all antibiotics is the risk of severe and sometimes deadly diarrhea caused by *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*). This occurs when a person takes antibiotics because some good bacteria are destroyed. Antibiotic use allows *C. difficile* to take over, putting patients at high risk for this serious infection.
- Diarrhea caused by *C. difficile* can be serious and must be recognized and treated quickly. When you are taking an antibiotic and you develop diarrhea, let your physician know immediately.
- The risk of getting *C. difficile* diarrhea can last for up to a few weeks even after you are no longer taking antibiotics. You should let your physician know if you develop diarrhea even if it has been a few weeks after you finished the course.

ANTIBIOTIC EDUCATION FOR PATIENTS

When antibiotics are used properly, they are beneficial to our lives and even life-saving. However, when antibiotics are used inappropriately, it can cause antibiotic resistance without providing benefit. In an effort to improve public awareness about antibiotic resistance, here are some helpful points to remember:

• What is antibiotic resistance?



- Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change in a way that reduces or eliminates the ability of antibiotics to kill the bacteria.

• How can I help prevent antibiotic resistance?

- Take antibiotics exactly as your physician instructs.
- Only take antibiotics prescribed for you.
- Do not save antibiotics for the next illness or share them with others.
- Do not ask for antibiotics for a common cold.
 - The common cold is caused by viruses. Antibiotics do not kill viruses.

