Over-the-Counter Medications:

There are a variety of OTC medications out there to also help you feel better. Always read the label – including the warnings – before taking any medication. If you have a pre-existing medical condition, such as high blood pressure, diabetes or heart disease, check with your doctor about which OTC product is best for you.

Antihistamine: reduces itchy watery eyes, sneezing, scratchy throat

Decongestant: reduces nasal congestion

Cough Suppressant: reduces coughing

Expectorant: breaks up mucus (phlegm) in the chest

Pain reliever: reduces aches and pain

Fever Reducer: reduces body temperature

Contact Your Doctor Again if:

- Your symptoms get worse.
- Your symptoms last a long time.
- After feeling a little better, you develop signs of a more serious problem. Some of these signs are a sick-to-your-stomach feeling, vomiting, high fever, shaking chills, chest pain.

A message from the "Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work" campaign.

For more information: http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/ anti_resist.html

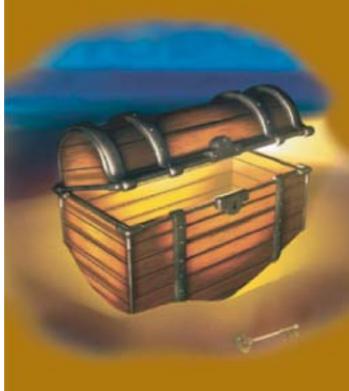


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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Food and Drug Administration

PRESERVE A TREASURE



Know When Antibiotics Work

Cough? Sore throat? Runny nose?

You or a loved one feels miserable and you've come to the doctor looking for help.

Q: I'm sick. Don't I need a prescription for an antibiotic?

A: Your doctor has examined you and determined that your illness is caused by a viral infection.

Antibiotics do NOT treat viral illnesses like colds, flu and most sore throats.

Q: If antibiotics don't treat viral illnesses like cold and flu, what do they treat?

A: Antibiotics are used to treat illnesses caused by bacteria. Examples of illnesses caused by bacteria include strep throat, tuberculosis and many types of pneumonia.

O: Even though my illness may be caused by a virus, what harm can it do to take an antibiotic?

A: Taking antibiotics when they aren't needed contributes to the serious problem of antibiotic resistance.

Q: What is antibiotic resistance?
A: This is when bacteria cannot be killed by antibiotics. The bacteria has become resistant. If this continues, over time some recurring infections may have to be treated with different and stronger antibiotics and the very real possibility that eventually no antibiotic will be effective in killing the bacteria.

Q: If antibiotics will not help me, what will?

A: There are many over-the-counter products available to treat the symptoms of your viral infection. These include cough suppressants which will help control coughing and decongestants to help relieve a stuffy nose. Read the label and ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any questions about which will work best for you.



Help Yourself Feel Better While You Are Sick

A cold usually lasts only a couple of days to a week. Feeling tired from the flu may continue for several weeks.

To feel better while you are sick:

- Drink plenty of fluids.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Use a humidifier an electric device that puts water into the air.