

ANTIBIOTICS

Use them wisely

Many of the common infections of the nose, throat, ears and chest are due to viruses. Viruses are NOT killed by antibiotics. Use this chart to find out which infections are usually caused by viruses. Talk with your doctor or community pharmacist about ways to feel better when you are ill.



Illness	Usual cause		Antibiotic needed
	Virus	Bacteria	
Cold	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Flu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Chest cold (in otherwise healthy children and adults)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Most sore throats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Bronchitis (in otherwise healthy children and adults)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Runny nose (with green or yellow mucus)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Ear infection (Otitis media)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Antibiotics should only be used when prescribed to treat a bacterial infection.