



Dear Dr.

I am writing to ask for your help in promoting appropriate antibiotic prescribing to protect patients from harms caused by unnecessary antibiotic use and combat antibiotic resistance, one of the most urgent threats to the public's health.

Antibiotics are powerful tools to fight life-threatening infections, like those that can lead to sepsis. However, anytime they are used, they can cause side effects and contribute to antibiotic resistance. Antibiotic-resistant infections can be more difficult to treat, pose a threat to patient safety, and lead to increased health care costs.<sup>1</sup>

To combat this growing threat and improve patient safety, [redacted] is participating in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiative to improve antibiotic prescribing. As part of this effort, we are identifying and alerting prescribers who are writing too many unnecessary prescriptions for acute bronchitis according to prescribing data.

**Your inappropriate antibiotic prescribing rate for acute bronchitis was [redacted] % in [redacted].**  
**The top performers' rate was 0%.**

**You wrote [redacted] prescriptions out of [redacted] acute uncomplicated bronchitis cases**  
**that did not warrant antibiotics in [redacted].**

This analysis was based upon the 2019 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) quality measure Avoidance of Antibiotic Treatment for Adults with Acute Bronchitis.<sup>2</sup> According to CDC, antibiotics will not treat acute bronchitis, and using antibiotics when they are not needed could do more harm than good.<sup>3</sup> To improve your performance on this measure, consider taking the following actions:

1. **Give patients advice on self-care.** You can use the enclosed CDC factsheet: "Preventing and Treating Bronchitis."<sup>4</sup>
2. **Display a personalized commitment poster<sup>5</sup>** to show your commitment to using antibiotics appropriately with your patients.
3. **Implement CDC's Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship<sup>6</sup>**, which provide a framework for improving antibiotic use.

CDC's national campaign, *Be Antibiotics Aware*, aims to raise awareness about antibiotic resistance and the importance of appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use among healthcare providers, patients, and their families. We encourage you to visit the *Be Antibiotics Aware* campaign website to find resources that you can use to educate your patients about appropriate antibiotic use: [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).

Antibiotic prescribing is a complex issue, but there are simple changes that we can all make that have the potential for big impact. We look forward to collaborating with you to improve patient safety and combat antibiotic resistance.

Sincerely,

## References

1. Sanchez GV, Fleming-Dutra KE, Roberts RM, Hicks LA. Core Elements of Outpatient Antibiotic Stewardship. MMWR Recomm Rep 2016;65(No. RR-6):1–12. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr6506a1>
2. <https://www.ncqa.org/news/ncqa-seeks-feedback-on-new-and-revised-measures>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/for-patients/common-illnesses/bronchitis.html>
4. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/downloads/Preventing-Treating-Bronchitis-p.pdf>
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references/print-materials/index.html>
6. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/core-elements/outpatient.html>