

# Taking Your Antibiotics



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

You have just filled a prescription for antibiotics.

## READ AND FOLLOW THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

- Take your antibiotic as prescribed by your healthcare professional.
- Do not share it with others.
- Talk to your pharmacist about safely discarding leftover medicines.

## WHY IS THIS CHECKLIST SO IMPORTANT?

All medicines have side effects. Common side effects of antibiotics can include:



Rash



Dizziness



Nausea



Yeast Infection



Diarrhea

More serious side effects include:

- Severe diarrhea, which could be a *C. diff* infection and needs immediate treatment.
- Severe and life-threatening allergic reactions, such as wheezing, hives, shortness of breath, and anaphylaxis (which also includes feeling that your throat is closing or choking, or your voice is changing).

Antibiotics can save lives. **When you need an antibiotic, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects.** Talk with your healthcare professional if you have questions about your antibiotics, including interactions with other medications, or if you develop side effects.

**1 out of 5**  
medication-related  
visits to the emergency  
room are from reactions  
to antibiotics.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

