



Dear

I am writing to ask for your help in promoting appropriate antibiotic use 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 we have to fight life-threatening infections, like those that can lead to sepsis. However, anytime they are used, they can cause side effects and lead to antibiotic resistance. Side effects can include rash, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, and yeast infections, but also more serious conditions like *C. difficile* infection and severe or life-threatening allergic reactions. Infections caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria often require extended hospital stays, additional follow-up visits to healthcare providers, and treatments that may be more costly and potentially more toxic.¹

is working to combat the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and improve patient safety by participating in a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initiative to improve antibiotic prescribing. As part of this effort, is identifying and alerting providers who are writing a higher number of antibiotic prescriptions than other clinicians in our state.

You prescribe more antibiotics than the majority (90%) of in .

This analysis was based upon the number of antibiotic prescriptions dispensed from community pharmacies in 2018 from data provided by IQVIA, a research organization participating in CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Challenge to fight antibiotic resistance across the globe.² While volume of antibiotic prescribing does **not** indicate appropriateness, we hope you will consider taking the following actions and using the below tools to optimize antibiotic prescribing:

1. **Display a personalized commitment poster³** to communicate your commitment to using antibiotics appropriately with your patients.
2. **Communicate to patients why antibiotics are not needed for certain infections** – you can use the enclosed CDC factsheet: "Viruses or Bacteria: What's got you sick?"⁴
3. **Take the CDC Training on Antibiotic Stewardship** to learn more about appropriate antibiotic use.⁵

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.

Antibiotic prescribing is a complex issue, but there are simple changes that we can all make that will 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.cdc.gov/drugresistance/intl-activities/amr-challenge.html#i>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references/print-materials/index.html>
4. https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/materials-references/print-materials/index.html#anchor_1560790145446
5. <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/for-hcp/continuing-education.html>