


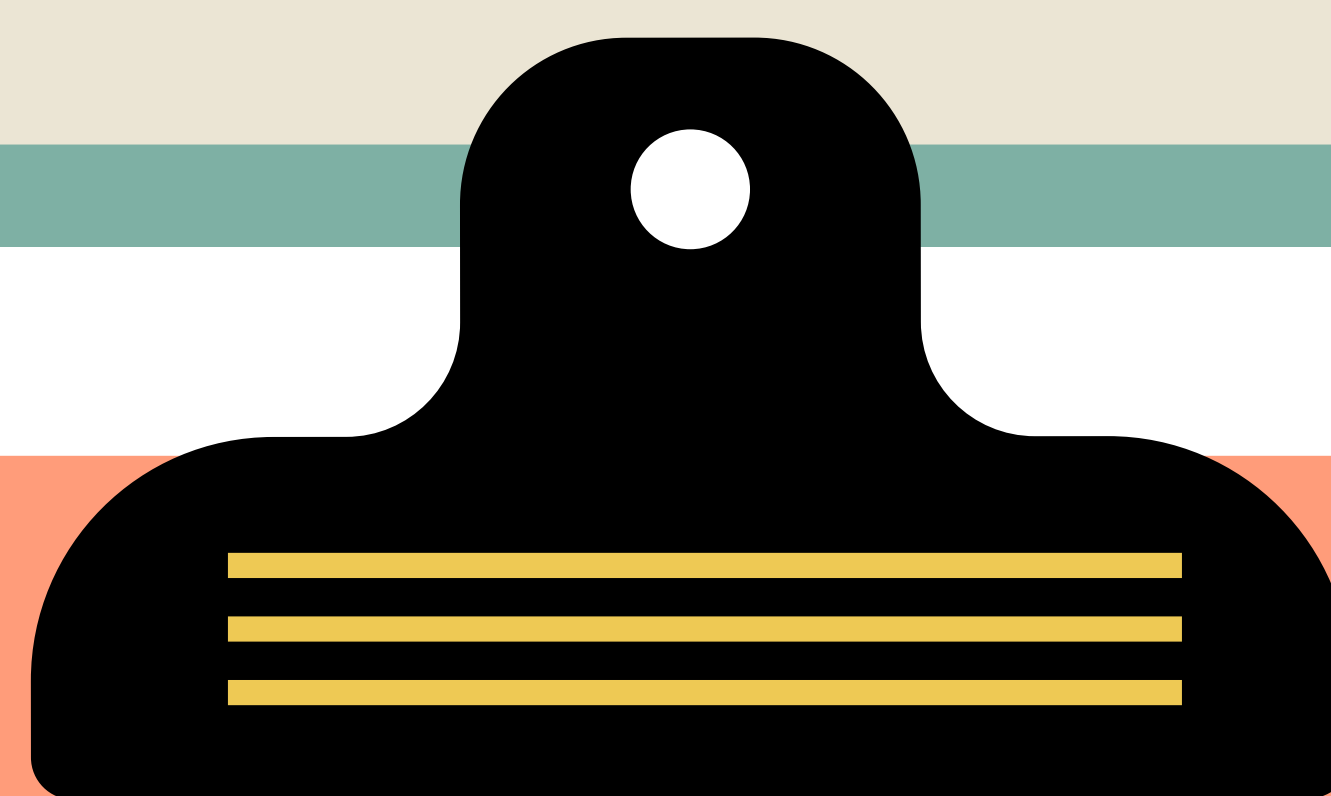


Antibiotic Prescriptions: Lessons from an Outpatient Pharmacist

By: Jamie Miller, PharmD; Annie Wirtz, PharmD, BCPPS



Join us for this month's Stewie Shares which highlights important tidbits for prescribers and parents about outpatient antibiotics!



Adding comments to antibiotic prescriptions can limit clarifying calls!

- To write for **extra antibiotic liquid in case of spills** - modify the prescription volume and note the reason in the comments
 - Pharmacies rarely dispense the exact volume prescribed; most dispense an entire bottle with instructions to discard the remainder
- In times of shortages, for **most** antibiotics, prescribers can indicate in comments that a **different concentration may be substituted** (ex. Can substitute amoxicillin 250 mg/5 mL for 400 mg/5 mL)
 - Note: amoxicillin/clavulanate concentrations CANNOT be automatically substituted as these are not interchangeable

Not all antibiotics are inexpensive or stocked by pharmacies

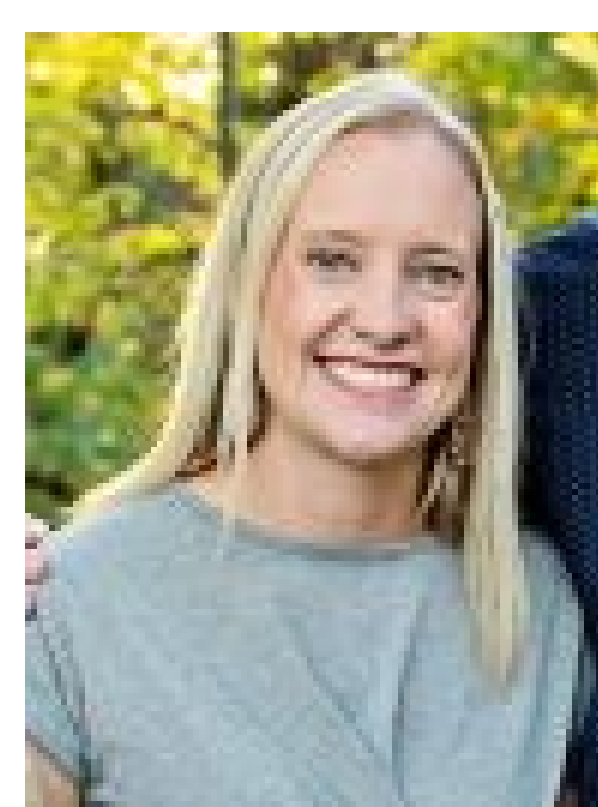
- Many pharmacies do **not regularly stock** cefprozil, cefuroxime, dicloxacillin, or erythromycin, but may be able to order to arrive in the following days
- Some antibiotics (including cefixime, cefpodoxime, amoxicillin/clavulanate XR tablets) **may not be covered** by commonly encountered insurance companies
- Some antibiotics (ex. amox/clav XR tablets, itraconazole) **may require a prior authorization** before dispensing. This can take a few days - **send the script early** to have ready before the patient needs it!

Think about storage and administration

- Majority of antibiotic liquids require reconstitution (or mixing with water) - for families, it may take a **few minutes for the pharmacy to prepare** this upon arrival
- Some common antibiotic suspensions (ex. cephalexin, amoxicillin/clavulanate), **require refrigeration** - patients/families may need to bring a cooler if traveling far
- Certain antibiotics **taste bad** and may be hard to administer to kids - check out [tips for giving antibiotics](#) from Children's Mercy Child Life
 - Some antibiotic capsules (ex. clindamycin) can be opened and sprinkled on food
 - Certain outpatient pharmacies may offer custom flavoring - ask the pharmacist



Click [here](#) or use the QR code to take a quick quiz!



Guest author, Jamie Miller, PharmD is the Pharmacy Supervisor for the CM Broadway Outpatient Pharmacy. She spends most of her free time at her 3 kids sporting events and activities, but also enjoys reading for fun and trying new restaurants.