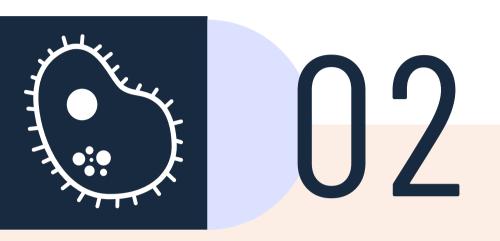
Prescribing an antibiotic? **Tidbits to Teach Families** By: Annie Wirtz, PharmD, BCPPS

Antibiotic stewardship has greatly focused on situations where **not** to prescribe antibiotics, but what is important to discuss with families who **are** prescribed antibiotics to avoid possible harm?

How should you give your child this antibiotic?

- Review antibiotic instructions with families as these can be confusing
- Consider identifying specific times to give the antibiotic (e.g., after school) to improve adherence
- Review circumstances where antibiotics should not be given with certain foods or other medications (e.g., iron and fluoroquinolones)



Why is your child receiving this antibiotic instead of another?

- Explain the reason behind specific antibiotic choices and educate that we target the most likely bacteria
- For example, a Z-Pak given daily for 5 days may be convenient for families but may not be effective for an ear infection
- Educate that unnecessary use of a broad-spectrum antibiotic promotes resistance

0.5

How long should your child take this antibiotic?

- Collaborate with families to identify short, yet effective durations
- Educate on the importance of finishing all doses even if improved
- Encourage families to appropriately dispose of and **not to keep excess** antibiotic doses. Click here for more info

If your child refuses the antibiotic, what should you do?

- Reduce stress for families by providing resources to assist with antibiotic administration to children
- Encourage families to call if their child absolutely won't take an antibiotic as alternatives may be available
- Review this handout created by Child Life for suggestions





What side effects should you look out for?

Click <u>here</u> to take a short quiz.

- Council families on both mild and severe adverse effects
- Explain to families the **differences** between side effects (e.g., stomach upset) and allergies (e.g., hives)
- Provide specific guidance on when to contact providers regarding an adverse effect



Author, Annie Wirtz, PharmD, BCPPS is Co-Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardshi Program. Click <u>here</u> to read her article in the P Link about this topic.

Check out the NEW ASP Website here! This will be updated regularly with resources and content.

Children's Mercy Antimicrobial Stewardship Program AntimicrobialStewards@cmh.edu

Copyright © 2022 The Children's Mercy Hospital. All rights reserved. 01/22