

# DISPOSE SAFELY. PREVENT RESISTANCE.



Ever wonder what to do with those leftover antibiotics?  
Review the harms of unused antibiotics and proper ways to dispose of them.

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## IS IT OK TO STOP MY ANTIBIOTICS EARLY IF I FEEL BETTER?

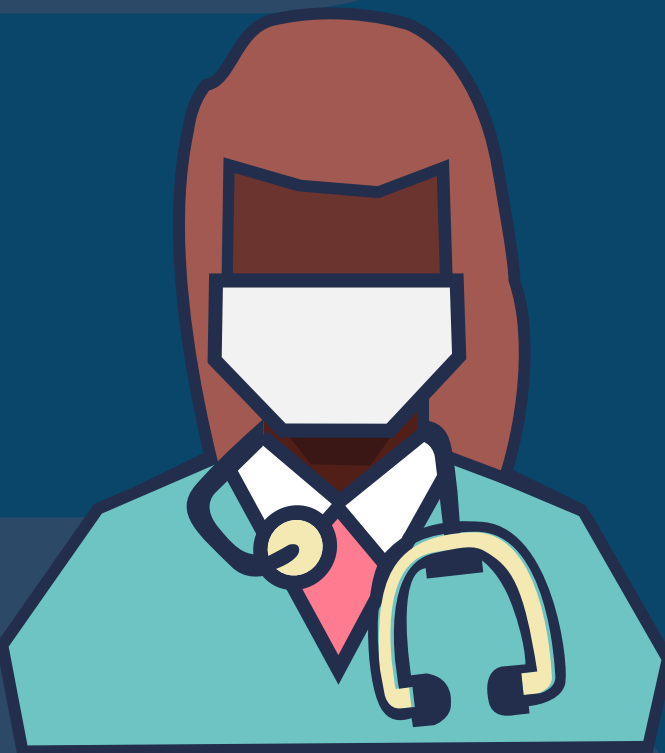
- Take the antibiotics for the full prescribed duration, even if you feel better
- Even if you feel better, this may not mean the infection has resolved
- Fewer days of antibiotics can be used to treat some specific types of infection. Ask your doctor if a shorter course can be considered for you



**Take antibiotics for the full prescribed duration.**

## IS IT OKAY TO KEEP ANTIBIOTICS FOR USE AT A LATER DATE?

- Only use antibiotics as directed by your doctor
- Leftover antibiotics may be expired or stored incorrectly and may not work as well
- The dose or type of the leftover antibiotic may not be correct and could cause harm



**Never save antibiotics for future use.**

## WHY SHOULD YOU DISPOSE OF ANTIBIOTICS SAFELY?

Medication disposal in the trash or by flushing down the sink/toilet can be harmful

Harms of incorrect antibiotic disposal include:

- Accidental ingestion by children or pets
- Environmental pollution
- Water contamination & subsequently antibiotic resistance



**Incorrect antibiotic disposal negatively impacts the environment.**

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF UNWANTED/EXPIRED MEDICATIONS SAFELY

National Drug Take Back Program takes place twice per year (April and October).

- Find a collection site at <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>
- Children's Mercy Adele Hall and Kansas outpatient pharmacies have "[MedSafe](#)" [drug disposal boxes](#) that anyone can use to drop off unwanted medications
- Adele Hall: 8am-7pm daily
  - Kansas: 9am-5:30pm Mon-Fri



**Check out CM's safe drug disposal options [here](#).**



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