

It is important to follow your doctor's instructions on when, how and for how long to take your antibiotics.



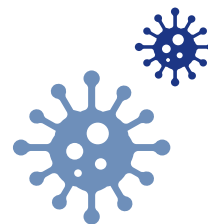
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Public Hospital Bruce



Consumer Endorsed
Patient Information Publication



Enquiries

Should you have any further questions please ask your hospital doctor or GP, or contact our Infection Control Coordinator on **(02) 6229 8983**.

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Antibiotic use
Patient information



Calvary

John James Hospital

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What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medications that are prescribed by your doctor to treat or reduce the risk of infections.

Antibiotics work by halting the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria or fungi, which may be making you unwell.

- Antibiotics are ineffective for use in treating viral infections, for example the common cold

Antibiotics are available in a variety of different preparations, including:

- tablets and capsules
- oral liquids
- injections
- drops, creams and ointments

Your doctor might prescribe antibiotics for you when you are in hospital to treat a suspected or known infection or to reduce the risk of you acquiring an infection during your admission.

What do you need to know about the antibiotic treatment prescribed for you in hospital?

- why an antibiotic has been prescribed for you
- which antibiotic you will be taking
- how often you will be given the antibiotic
- how the antibiotic will be administered
- the duration of time you will be taking the antibiotic
- side effects of the antibiotic

Please advise your health care team if you have any allergies or have had a previous allergic reaction to any antibiotics.

What do you need to know before you leave hospital?

- which antibiotic you will be taking
- how, when and for how long you are to take your antibiotic
- if you need to take your antibiotics with food,
- what you should do if you miss a dose
- side effects to look out for and when you should seek medical advice
- possible interactions with other medication that you are currently taking

A wound swab, or specimen of urine, sputum or blood will be forwarded to the laboratory for testing. Once an MRO (multi-resistant organism) is detected, the laboratory will check which antibiotic will be effective in killing the resistant organism.

What is antibiotic resistance?

Microorganisms are always looking to develop new ways to protect themselves from the effects of antibiotics, this leads to antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotic resistance means that a particular antibiotic may no longer be effective in treating your infection, making it more difficult for your doctor to prescribe an appropriate antibiotic for you.

Will antibiotic resistance affect you?

Some microorganisms have developed resistance to many different, sometimes commonly used antibiotics.

The media often refer to these antibiotic resistant organisms as 'superbugs'.

If you develop an antibiotic resistant organism, it can take longer to treat your infection.

What are hospitals doing to reduce the risks associated with antibiotic resistance?

Hospitals are committed to providing the correct antibiotic to treat your infection including, preparation, dosage and duration of use. Your healthcare providers will work as a team to improve antibiotic usage to benefit you and other patients.

Hospitals participate in:

- the review of pathology results and collection of data on antibiotic resistant infections
- the monitoring of antibiotic usage
- the use of current, relevant guidelines to assist with choosing the antibiotic that you require
- prescribing a different antibiotic to treat your infection, if indicated by a change in your condition or pathology results
- the reservation of particular antibiotics required to treat specific infections

Useful tips for appropriate antibiotic use

- Always finish your prescribed antibiotic course as directed by your doctor, even when you start to feel better
- Never share antibiotics with others
- Your packet of antibiotics should contain a consumer medicine information leaflet to assist you to understand more about the antibiotic you are taking
- A discharge summary, including your medications, will be sent to your GP for your post-discharge review
- If, under the direction of your doctor, you do not finish a course of antibiotics, do not keep the unused antibiotics for another time, return them to your pharmacy
- Always seek advice from your hospital doctor, pharmacist or GP if you have any concerns or queries regarding the antibiotic that has been prescribed for you