

MEDICAL MANAGEMENT

Resources for Your Patients About Appropriate Antibiotic Use

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reminds providers each year to raise awareness about proper antibiotic use. When patients overuse antibiotics or take them for viruses and other illnesses that are not caused by bacteria, it can lead to antibiotic resistance and the rise of “superbugs” that are harder to treat.

It’s important to talk with your patients about whether and when they need an antibiotic drug. If you do prescribe antibiotics for a patient, make sure they understand how to take them exactly as directed. And if your patients have a condition that won’t be treated effectively with antibiotics, talk with them about other options to relieve their symptoms.

Louisiana Blue produced a short animated video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGcM9AmXYYQ>) about antibiotic use that you can share as a resource with your patients.

You can also visit the CDC’s Antimicrobial Resistance page (www.cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/communication-resources/usaaw.html) for more resources, including a U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week toolkit with graphics and other information.