

A Commitment of Our Medical and Nursing Staff to Use Antibiotics Only When Necessary

Antibiotics are powerful medicines. They are important to treat most infections caused by bacterial germs. Antibiotics don't work against viruses that cause the common cold, most coughs, and the flu.

Taking antibiotics when you don't need them can be harmful. When you use antibiotics, they can sometimes cause side effects like a skin rash, diarrhea, or a yeast infection. While most side effects are not serious, some can be life threatening. Scientific studies have also found that when you take antibiotics, it increases the chance that if you get an infection in the future, it's more likely to be caused by bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics (where the germ has developed the ability to overcome the antibiotic). These resistant infections can be harder to treat, which means antibiotics might not work when you really need them.

To provide the best care, our medical staff is dedicated to prescribing an antibiotic when you need it and will avoid prescribing an antibiotic when it is not needed. Taking antibiotics only when needed helps keep you healthy, avoids unnecessary side effects, and helps fight antibiotic resistance so that antibiotics will continue to be effective when they truly are needed.

We will always answer any questions about the role of antibiotics in your treatment.



Strengthening Antimicrobial Stewardship for Skilled Nursing Facilities is an initiative of the Fairfax County Health Department.



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