



Do you need antibiotics?

Viruses and bacteria are infectious germs that can make us really sick. Check out the differences to understand how to protect your health and the best way your doctor can treat the illness if you or your family get sick.

Virus	Bacteria
Antibiotics do not work on viruses	Antibiotics can be given
Spread can be prevented by vaccinating	Cover your cough and practice good hand hygiene
Can not survive without a host organism	Can survive in a variety of environments and does not need a host
Abrupt symptom onset	Gradual symptoms onset
Fever is common	Fever is rare
Chills, aches, and fatigue is common	Aches and chills are uncommon
Cold, flu, COVID, chickenpox, HPV	Strep throat, E. coli, pneumonia

Resource: [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

It's important to trust your doctor when they don't give you antibiotics for things like a cold or flu. Antibiotic misuse can lead to antibiotic resistance which makes it harder to treat bacterial infections in the future.



If you have questions, visit your health plan's website or call Member Services toll-free number on the back of your health plan ID card.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about flu and antibiotics.



HPN



SHL



Medicaid

Tiene derecho a recibir ayuda e información en su idioma sin costo. Para solicitar un intérprete, llame al número de teléfono gratuito para miembros que se encuentra en su tarjeta de identificación del plan o los documentos de su plan.

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