



Forks
Community
Hospital

Antibiotics do not always CURE

Antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections caused by bacteria. Viral illnesses **CANNOT** be treated with antibiotics.



Bacteria

Common conditions caused by bacteria that may need an antibiotic are:

Strep Throat
Whooping Cough
Urinary Tract Infections



Virus

Common conditions caused by viruses that cannot be treated with an antibiotic are:

Common Cold/Runny Nose
Sore Throat (not strep)
Flu



Bacteria or Virus

Common conditions caused by a virus or bacteria and antibiotics are given at the discretion of your provider:

Middle Ear Infection
Sinus Infection



Why Not Just Prescribe

When antibiotics are not needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still hurt you. Common side effects of antibiotics can include rash, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, and yeast infections.

We work with Experts

Forks Hospital doctors, nurses, infection prevention, and our pharmacist have participated in the University of Washington Tele-Antimicrobial Stewardship Program since its inception 2 years ago. We frequently present case studies from our patients to the UW expert panel for advice and learning opportunities. We have access to experts on infectious diseases and standardized care pathways outside our weekly meetings. We have followed the recommendation of the CDC by instituting an antimicrobial stewardship program to foster appropriate use of antibiotics and prevent the spread of drug-resistant illnesses.



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Keep Yourself & Others Healthy

- Wash your hands thoroughly and often.
- Receive all recommended vaccines.
- Make sure your cough is covered; wear a mask.
- Stay home when you are sick.