



10 things I need to know before prescribing antibiotics for my patients

ASSESS:

- 1 DELAY** prescribing antimicrobials whenever possible¹
- 2 ORDER** culture and susceptibility testing whenever possible before prescribing antimicrobials¹

ALWAYS:

- 3 CHOOSE** the **RIGHT ANTIBIOTIC** and **DOSE** based on efficacy and risk of adverse events²
- 4** Treat for the **SHORTEST DURATION** of therapy possible¹⁻³
- 5 RE-EVALUATE** your patient's need for antimicrobials frequently
- 6 DE-ESCALATE:** Can a more targeted antibiotic be used to treat the infection?^{2,4}
- 7 SWITCH** from IV to oral administration where possible^{1,3,4}
- 8 CHECK** latest treatment guidelines and hospital policies

AVOID:

- 9** Prescribing antibiotics when viral infection is likely the cause^{1,5}
- 10** Administering broad-spectrum antibiotics for less severe illness²



References

1. Leekha S, Terrell CL, Edson RS. *Mayo Clin Proc* 2011;86:156-167.
2. Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. Antibiotic stewardship statement for antibiotic guidelines – The recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). 2016. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/media/pdfs/antibiotic-stewardship-statement-508.pdf>. Accessed October 2017.
3. Barlam TR, et al. *Clin Infect Dis* 2016;62:e51-e77.
4. Schuts EC, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2016;16:847-856.
5. Colgan R, Powers JH. *Am Fam Physician* 2001;64:999-1005.