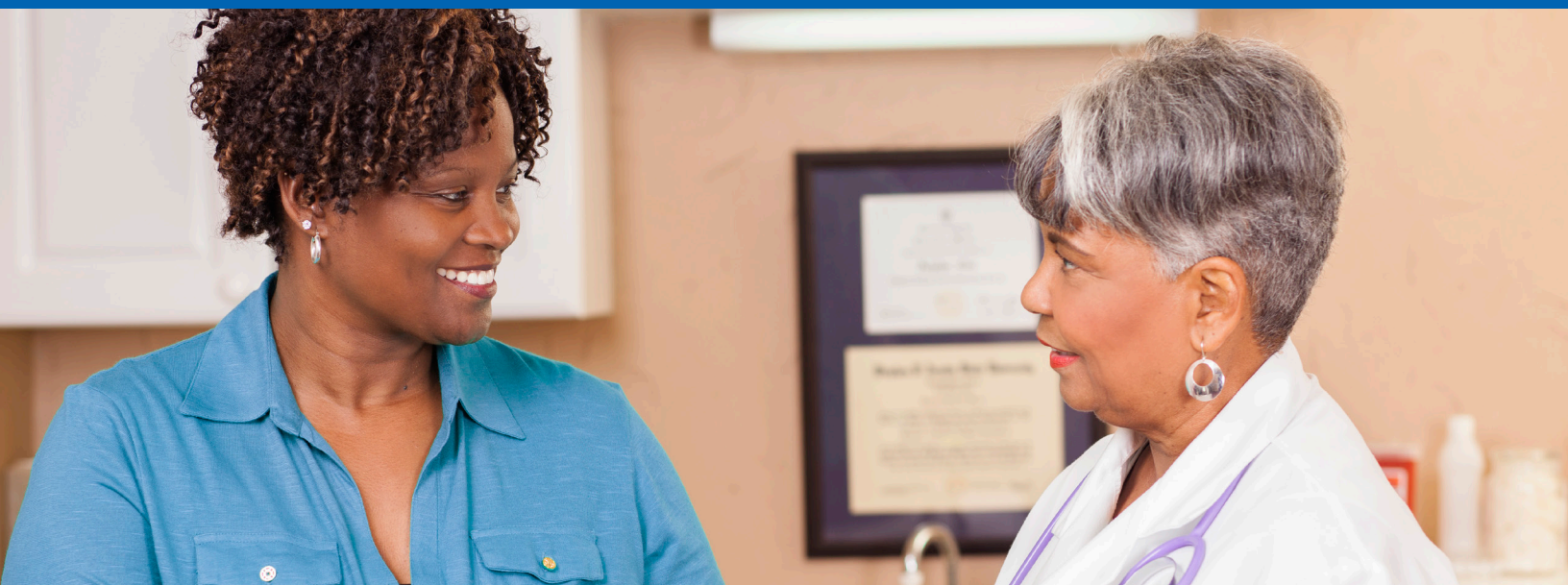


ANTIBIOTICS AREN'T ALWAYS THE ANSWER.



Antibiotics save lives. Improving the way healthcare professionals prescribe antibiotics, and the way we take antibiotics, helps keep us healthy now, helps fight antibiotic resistance, and ensures that these life-saving drugs will be available for future generations.



**BE
ANTIBIOTICS
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE

The Facts:

When a patient needs antibiotics, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects or antibiotic resistance.

When antibiotics aren't 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, or yeast infections. More serious side effects include *Clostridium difficile* infection (also called *C. difficile* or *C. diff*), which causes diarrhea that can lead to severe colon damage and death. People can also have severe and life-threatening allergic reactions.

Antibiotics do not work on viruses, such as colds and flu, or runny noses, even if the mucus is thick, yellow, or green.

Antibiotics are only needed for treating certain infections caused by bacteria. Antibiotics also won't help for some common bacterial infections including most cases of bronchitis, many sinus infections, and some ear infections.

Taking antibiotics creates resistant

bacteria. Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria no longer respond to the drugs designed to kill them.

Each year in the United States, at least **2 million** people get infected with antibiotic-resistant bacteria. At least **23,000** people die as a result.

If you need antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed.

Talk with your doctor if you have any questions about your antibiotics, or if you develop any side effects, especially diarrhea, since that could be a *C. difficile* (*C. diff*) infection which needs to be treated.

Reactions from antibiotics cause **1 out of 5** medication-related visits to the emergency department. In children, reactions from antibiotics are the most common cause of medication-related emergency department visits.