

Antibiotics

Sometimes when you are sick, a doctor will give you a prescription for an antibiotic. An antibiotic is used to cure an illness caused by bacteria. The antibiotic kills the bacteria that are making you sick. Some common illnesses caused by bacteria are ear infections, strep throat, pneumonia, diarrhea, and urinary tract infections.

You can also get sick from a virus. Some common illnesses caused by viruses are colds and the flu. Viruses and bacteria are different. Taking an antibiotic for a sickness caused by a virus will not make you better and will not kill the virus.

Sometimes taking an antibiotic when you are sick from a virus can hurt you. If you see a doctor, you should ask if you are sick from bacteria or a virus. The doctor will only give you an antibiotic if you are sick from bacteria.

If you are taking an antibiotic, it is very important to follow the directions. If you don't follow the directions, the bacteria can become stronger and can make you sick again. Some directions say to throw away the antibiotic after a certain number of days. Some directions say to take all of the medicine until it is gone.