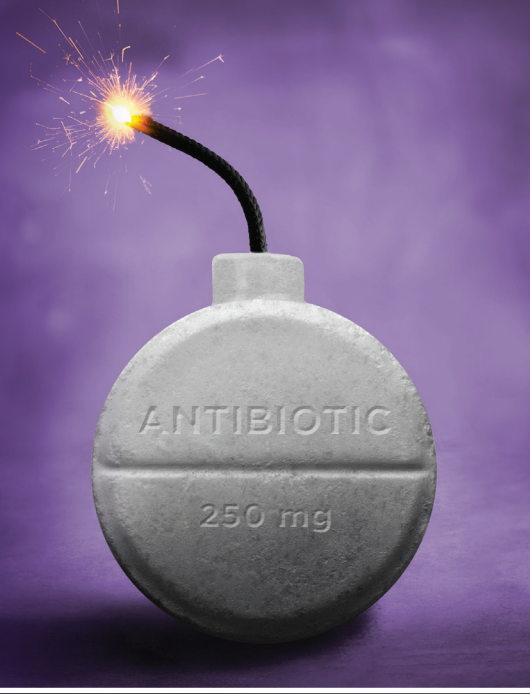
IT'S TIME TO TAKE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE SERIOUSLY

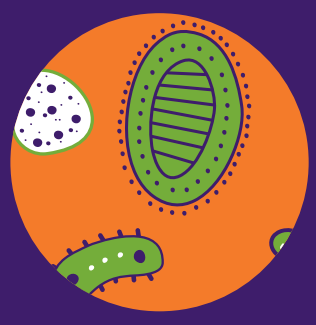


Overuse and misuse of antibiotics is increasing the problem of antibiotic resistance. We are all part of the problem and the solution. Check out these facts that bust some common misconceptions about antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance.

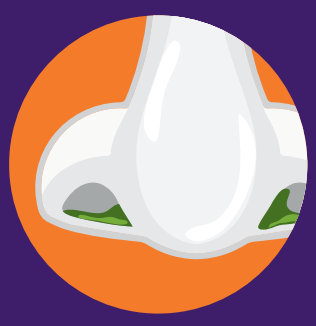
Before antibiotics, simple bacterial infections could kill.

The discovery of penicillin was so important, its inventors were awarded a Nobel Prize.

Antibiotics don't work for all infections.
They only work on bacteria, not infections caused by viruses such as colds and flu.



Bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, not people.



Green snot doesn't mean you need antibiotics.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria can develop in people after a course of antibiotics.
Only use antibiotics as instructed by your healthcare professional.

Antibiotic resistance is already impacting our health.
Antibiotic resistance is affecting people in Australia now, and causing longer stays in hospital and a higher death rate.

Sharing antibiotics and using leftover antibiotics can increase antibiotic resistance.

If we don't fight antibiotic resistance, by 2050 up to 10 million people may die every year from untreatable infections.

Developing new antibiotics is not enough.
The time it takes for resistance to develop is getting shorter.

Reducing antibiotic resistance is everyone's responsibility – doctors and patients.

HERE ARE FIVE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

1. I will not ask for antibiotics for colds and flu as they have no effect on viruses.
2. I understand that antibiotics will not help me recover faster from a viral infection.
3. I will only take antibiotics in the way they have been prescribed.
4. I understand that it is possible to pass on antibiotic resistant bacteria to others.
5. I will make a greater effort to prevent the spread of germs by practising good hygiene.

Visit **nps.org.au/waaw** to learn how.

WORLD *Antibiotic* AWARENESS 12 – 18 NOVEMBER **WEEK**

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