

## **Antibiotic RX in Hospitals: Proceed with Caution PSA (:60)**

Antibiotics save lives, but poor prescribing practices put patients at risk for preventable allergic reactions, super-resistant infections, and deadly diarrhea. These errors also make the drugs less likely to work in the future. More than half of hospital patients receive an antibiotic for at least one day during their stay. Patients *can* be protected and the power of antibiotics *can* be saved.

All hospitals should have an antibiotic stewardship program that includes, at minimum, CDC's checklist.

Health providers—prescribe antibiotics correctly and document the dose, duration, and indication for every prescription. Reassess each prescription within 48 hours and adjust or stop the drug, if needed.

Hospital patients—ask if tests will be done to be sure the right antibiotic is prescribed, and be sure everyone cleans their hands before touching you.

To learn more, visit [cdc.gov/vitalsigns](https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns).