

MEDICAID PROVIDER BULLETIN

October 2017

Antibiotic overuse

Each year in the United States, at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die as a direct result of these infections. Many more people die from other conditions that are complicated by an antibiotic-resistant infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides the following condition-specific recommendations on antibiotic use:

- **Acute uncomplicated bronchitis:**
Evaluation should focus on ruling out pneumonia. Routine treatment of uncomplicated acute bronchitis with antibiotics is not recommended regardless of cough duration; treat symptomatically.
- **Common cold or nonspecific upper respiratory tract infection (URI) in children:**
At least 200 viruses can cause the common cold. The course of uncomplicated viral URI is 5 to 7 days. Antibiotics should not be prescribed for these conditions, and treatment should focus on symptom relief.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart> > For Healthcare Professionals > Outpatient Healthcare Professionals > Adult Treatment Recommendations and Pediatric Treatment Recommendations

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, call Provider Services at **1-855-661-2028**.

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at:

<https://mediproviders.anthem.com/ky>

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