

5 Questions to Ask Your Baby's Doctor Before Your Baby is Given Antibiotics



It's important to understand why your baby is being given antibiotics, if they are needed and when they can be stopped. The questions below can help you talk with your baby's doctor about antibiotic usage.

- 1. Why does my baby need antibiotics?** Antibiotics fight bacterial infections. They do not fight viruses or other conditions that may have symptoms that look like bacterial infections. Ask your baby's doctor if he or she has a bacterial infection.
- 2. What are the risks?** Antibiotics can cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. They can also lead to "antibiotic resistance" – if antibiotics are used when they are not needed, they may not work when your baby does need them.
- 3. Are there simpler, safer options?** Sometimes all your baby needs is time, rest and fluids. Ask your baby's doctor if antibiotics are the best option.
- 4. How will I know if my baby still needs antibiotics?** The length of time your baby needs to be on antibiotics may depend on what symptoms he or she is showing and if he or she is continuing to test positive for a bacterial infection. Ask your baby's doctor what signs and symptoms to look for in your baby.
- 5. When can the antibiotics be stopped?** It's important to talk to your baby's doctor regularly about when they expect to be able to stop antibiotics. If your baby is given antibiotics, you can use the form on the back of this sheet to help you keep track of which medications your baby has received, the doses, and how they have affected your baby's symptoms.



Use these 5 questions to talk to your baby's doctor about when your baby needs antibiotics—and when your baby does not.

Antibiotics can help prevent or treat some infections. But if they are used for the wrong reason, they may cause unnecessary harm.

Talk to your baby's doctor to make sure your baby is only given antibiotics for the right reasons – and at the right time.



