

Antibiotic Classes

Nursing

Five families, what each attacks, and the monitoring the class specifically needs.

Mechanism drives both the spectrum and the characteristic adverse effect.

Class	Attacks	Watch for
Penicillins	Cell wall	Allergy; ask what happened
Cephalosporins	Cell wall	C. difficile risk; cross-allergy
Macrolides	Protein synthesis	QT interval; interactions
Aminoglycosides	Protein synthesis	Renal and ear toxicity; levels
Fluoroquinolones	DNA replication	Tendon, neuro, QT effects
Glycopeptides	Cell wall	Infusion reaction; levels

Educational reference. Choice, dose and duration follow local antimicrobial guidance and stewardship, not class-level generalisations.