

Antibiotics

Body & health

What they treat, what they do not, and why 'finish the course' is debated.

Antibiotics work on

- Bacterial infections
- Strep throat, UTIs, bacterial pneumonia
- Cellulitis and some wound infections
- Prescribed for a specific organism where possible

They do nothing for

- Colds and flu
- Most sore throats and coughs
- COVID-19 and other viruses
- Taking them anyway drives resistance

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Resistance is driven by unnecessary use. Every course taken without need makes future infections harder to treat.

Educational reference. Follow the exact course your prescriber gives you — guidance on duration is changing and is condition-specific.