

## What if I forgot to take the antibiotics?

Always follow the directions given by your doctor, as missing doses may reduce the effectiveness of treatment. If you forget to take a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember, and then take the next dose as scheduled. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose as scheduled. Do not take a double dose.



## How to store antibiotics?

Store antibiotics according to the storage conditions and expiry date stated on the package or drug label. Antibiotic should generally be kept in a cool dry place, away from light and out of the reach of children. Some antibiotics may require refrigeration.

## Precautions

Do not take antibiotics that are prescribed for others, or for purposes other than the ones specified by your doctor as this may not improve the condition and may cause resistance.



This guidance is for reference only .  
You should always follow your doctor's instructions.  
Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.  
Do not share your medications with other people.

如有任何查詢，歡迎聯絡我們  
For enquiry, please feel free to contact us

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## Antibiotics

藥劑部  
Pharmacy



## What are antibiotics?

Antibiotics are medicines that kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria. They are used to prevent or treat infections caused by bacteria but not viruses such as those that cause cold or flu.

## Do I need antibiotics?

Some diseases are self-limiting and may not require antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics are only needed if bacterial infections are suspected or confirmed by your doctor.



## How do I take antibiotics?

You should only take antibiotics under the advice of your doctor. Do not adjust the dose or dosing interval yourself. Complete the whole course of antibiotics as directed, and do not stop even if you feel better, as this may result in bacterial resistance, meaning the antibiotics will work less well or not at all in the future. Inform your doctor if you have any drug allergies or if you are taking other medications or supplements, as they can interfere with antibiotics.



## What is “whole course” of an antibiotic?

“Whole course” refers to the duration of treatment that is required to clear an infection. The length of treatment can vary significantly depending on the severity and type of infection. You should finish the whole course of antibiotics as directed by your doctor.

## Side effects of antibiotics

Side effects refer to the unwanted and unpleasant effects caused by medications. The most common side effects of antibiotics include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea as antibiotics kill the normal gut flora. However, not everyone experiences side effects or experiences them in the same way.

## Allergy

Some people are allergic to certain antibiotics (e.g. penicillins or cephalosporins). Most allergic reactions are mild and localized, such as itchiness or rash confined to a small area. More severe reactions are called “anaphylaxis”, which usually occurs within seconds or minutes after taking the medicine. Symptoms include swelling of the tongue and face, shortness of breath, widespread rash and loss of consciousness. Anaphylaxis can be fatal and immediate medical attention is required.