

Introducing the new desktop guide— **Antibiotic choices** for **common infections**

Accompanying this edition of Best Practice Journal for prescribers is a reference guide to selecting appropriate antibiotic choices for infections commonly treated in general practice.

This booklet provides guidance on rational antibiotic prescribing for respiratory, ear, nose and throat, eye, skin, gastrointestinal, genito-urinary and central nervous system conditions.

This guide is also available to download from our website: www.bpac.org.nz

A small number of booklets are available to order for prescribers who did not receive a copy. Please email: kyla@bpac.org.nz

ANTIBIOTICS
CHOICES FOR COMMON INFECTIONS

A safe and effective strategy for antibiotic use involves only prescribing an antibiotic when it is needed and selecting an effective agent at the correct dose with the narrowest spectrum, fewest adverse effects and lowest cost.

General principles of antibiotic prescribing:

1. Only prescribe antibiotics for bacterial infections if:
 - Symptoms are significant or severe
 - There is a high risk of complications
 - The infection is not resolving
2. Use first-line antibiotics first
3. Reserve broad spectrum antibiotics for indicated conditions only

The following information is intended to guide selection of an appropriate antibiotic for infections commonly seen in general practice. Individual patient circumstances may alter treatment choices.

Data on national resistance patterns are available from the ESR website: www.surve.esr.org.nz

Regional resistance patterns may vary slightly, check with your local laboratory.

Respiratory

Eyes

Ear, nose and throat

Skin

Gastrointestinal

Genito-urinary

CNS

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The information in this guide is correct as at the time of publication (April, 2011).