

FOR PATIENTS

# Antibiotics Can Cause Harm



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE



Antibiotics are responsible for almost **1 out of 5** emergency department visits for adverse drug events.



Antibiotics are **the most common cause** of emergency department visits for adverse drug events in children under 18 years of age.

**When antibiotics are not needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could cause harm. Ask your healthcare professional about the best way to treat your illness.**

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit [www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use).

