

ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE



WHAT CAN PHARMACISTS DO?

Antibiotic Resistance happens when bacteria change and become resistant to the antibiotics used to treat the infections they cause. This is compromising our ability to treat infectious diseases and undermining many advances in medicine.

We must handle antibiotics with care so they remain effective for as long as possible.

- ✓ Do you only dispense antibiotics when they are **needed**, according to current guidelines (e.g. does the patient have a valid **prescription**, is it for the **right drug/dose/duration**)?
- ✓ When patients are seeking treatment for **cold or flu**, do you explain that **antibiotics are not needed**?
- ✓ Do you talk to patients about how to **take antibiotics correctly**, antibiotic resistance & the dangers of misuse?
- ✓ Do you remind patients to contact their health professional if **symptoms persist**?
- ✓ Do you talk to patients about **preventing infections** (e.g. vaccination, hand washing, safer sex, covering nose & mouth when sneezing)?