



# 10 things I need to know before prescribing antibiotics for my patients

## **ASSESS:**

- 1 DELAY** prescribing antimicrobials whenever possible<sup>1</sup>
- 2 ORDER** culture and susceptibility testing whenever possible before prescribing antimicrobials<sup>1</sup>

## **ALWAYS:**

- 3 CHOOSE** the **RIGHT ANTIBIOTIC** and **DOSE** based on efficacy and risk of adverse events<sup>2</sup>
- 4** Treat for the **SHORTEST DURATION** of therapy possible<sup>1-3</sup>
- 5 RE-EVALUATE** your patient's need for antimicrobials frequently
- 6 DE-ESCALATE:** Can a more targeted antibiotic be used to treat the infection?<sup>2,4</sup>
- 7 SWITCH** from IV to oral administration where possible<sup>1,3,4</sup>
- 8 CHECK** latest treatment guidelines and hospital policies

## **AVOID:**

- 9** Prescribing antibiotics when viral infection is likely the cause<sup>1,5</sup>
- 10** Administering broad-spectrum antibiotics for less severe illness<sup>2</sup>



### References

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3. Barlam TR, et al. *Clin Infect Dis* 2016;62:e51-e77.
4. Schuts EC, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2016;16:847-856.
5. Colgan R, Powers JH. *Am Fam Physician* 2001;64:999-1005.



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