

**Written information can reduce use of antibiotics for acute URTIs**

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<b>Clinical Question</b>	Does written information for patients (or parents of child patients) reduce the use of antibiotics for acute upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) in primary care?
<b>Bottom Line</b>	Providing a booklet and explanation by a specially-trained doctor reduced the number of antibiotics children consumed by 20% (from 42% to 22%) without affecting parent satisfaction with consultation or numbers of return visits for the same illness. Compared to the doctor's usual practice, two studies showed that providing a booklet reduced the proportion of children prescribed an antibiotic by 9% to 21%. When doctors were also given feedback on their antibiotic prescribing along with providing a booklet to parents, the proportion of children prescribed an antibiotic increased by 6% (from 44% to 50%).
<b>Caveat</b>	None of the included studies assessed if people were better informed, how long symptoms lasted, or if people had complications.
<b>Context</b>	Acute URTIs are frequently managed in primary care settings. Although many are viral, and there is an increasing problem with antibiotic resistance, antibiotics continue to be prescribed for URTIs. Written patient information may be a simple way to reduce antibiotic use for acute URTIs.
<b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>	<a href="#">O'Sullivan JW et al. Written information for patients (or parents of child patients) to reduce the use of antibiotics for acute upper respiratory tract infections in primary care. Cochrane Reviews, 2016, Issue 11. Art. No.: CD011360.DOI: 10.1002/14651858. CD011360.pub2.</a> This review contains two studies involving 827 participants.

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