

Self-Start Antibiotic Therapy

What is self-start antibiotic therapy?

Self-start antibiotics are an option for selected patients with uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTI's). Self-start antibiotic therapy can also be used by patients with frequent UTI's to treat infection early and prevent complications.

What are symptoms of uncomplicated UTI?

Uncomplicated urinary tract infection symptoms typically include urinary urgency and frequency, burning and pain with urination, a constant feeling of something in the bladder, odor, and cloudy urine.

If you experience blood in the urine, back pain and fever, you may have a more complicated UTI and should call our office.

When should self-start antibiotic therapy be initiated?

You recognize the symptoms of your own urinary tract infections better than anyone else. If you recognize these symptoms, proceed with the "self-start antibiotic therapy" medication immediately. The antibiotics will be more effective in getting rid of the infection if treatment begins as soon as you recognize symptoms.

If symptoms continue after taking the antibiotics for 3 days, you should contact our office at 734-936-7030 and a call center representative will direct you to the nurse.

Examples of antibiotics typically given for self-start antibiotic therapy are:

- 1) Cipro 500 mg. to be taken twice a day for 3 days
- 2) Levaquin 250 mg to be taken once daily for 3 days
- 3) Bactrim DS to be taken twice daily for 3 days

Your physician will give you a prescription that will be best for you.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact the University of Michigan, Department of Urology at 734-936-7030 during business hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm). After business hours and on weekends, please call 734-936-6267 and ask to speak with the Urology Resident on call. If you need to see a doctor right away please go to the nearest Emergency Room (ER). Have the ER doctor contact the University of Michigan urology resident on call for assistance.

Disclaimer: This document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Talk with your doctor if you have Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options.

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Author: Charlene Neer RN, BSN, MPA & Tami Walker, BSN, RN, CWOCN
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