



THE PROBLEM

Health care providers often prescribe antibiotics unnecessarily or for the wrong dosage or duration. When antibiotics are used inappropriately, bacteria build up resistance to the drugs designed to fight them, and antibiotics become ineffective. Ineffective antibiotics can allow infectious bacteria to take over, resulting in severe and deadly illnesses.

- Each year, **2 million** people nationwide contract drug-resistant bacterial infections, and at least **23,000** die.²
- In 2015, Illinois outpatient providers dispensed **845** antibiotic prescriptions **per 1,000** people.⁴
- At least **30%** of antibiotic courses prescribed in outpatient settings across the U.S. are unnecessary.¹
- **Primary care physicians, physicians assistants and nurse practitioners, and dentists** are among the highest prescribing specialty groups in community settings.³

THE CAMPAIGN

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) launched the Precious Drugs and Scary Bugs Campaign in 2015 to:

- Promote the appropriate use of antibiotics
- Provide health care professionals resources to improve antibiotic prescribing practices
- Improve coordination and exchange of antibiotic stewardship best practices

The campaign targets outpatient health care providers. Since the campaign launch, IDPH has enrolled **62 outpatient practices** that represent over **392 providers** across Illinois. Participating sites complete assessments and display exam room posters committing to judicious antibiotic prescribing.

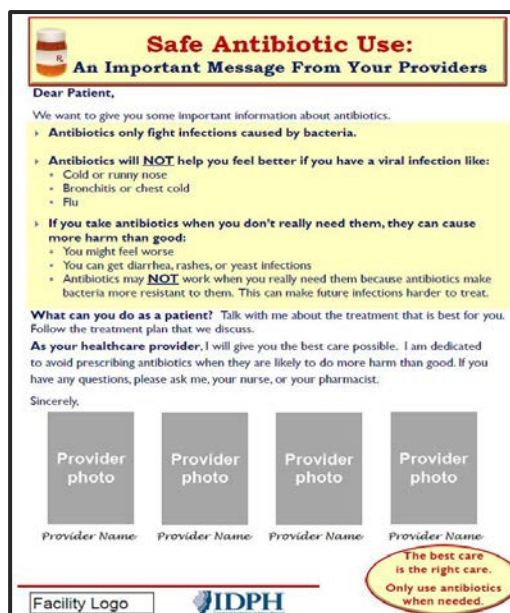
- In one medical group consisting of 19 primary care sites, appropriate treatment for children with upper respiratory infections improved by almost **25%**.
- Over **55%** of participating providers surveyed indicated that the commitment poster encouraged judicious antibiotic prescribing for acute respiratory infections in their practice.

THE CAMPAIGN-WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ✓ Complete a **self-assessment** of prescribing practices and identify areas for improvement
- ✓ Display a **public commitment poster** customized with providers' names and photos
- ✓ Participate in **educational activities**, such as webinars or in person events (annual IL Summit on Antimicrobial Stewardship)
- ✓ Track **antibiotic prescribing data** in your practice
- ✓ Request **support** for antimicrobial stewardship program implementation by emailing DPH.DPSQ@illinois.gov
- ✓ Share your **stewardship** story by emailing DPH.DPSQ@illinois.gov

RESOURCES

- [Precious Drugs & Scary Bugs Campaign Implementation Guide](#)
- [Antibiotic Stewardship Toolkit for Dental Providers](#)
- [CDC's Antimicrobial Stewardship Training](#)
- [Customizable Public Commitment Poster Templates](#)



For more information, contact dph.dpsq@illinois.gov

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/improving-prescribing/outpatient-stewardship.html>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/about/should-know.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/community/programs-measurement/state-local-activities/outpatient-antibiotic-prescriptions-US-2015.html>

⁴ <https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/PSA/AUMapView.html>