



# Delayed Antibiotic Prescription

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIT. Don't fill your prescription just yet.  
Your health care provider thinks your illness will get  
better on its own.**

**Continue to watch your symptoms over the next few days and try the following steps to help you feel better:**

- Rest as much as possible
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Wash your hands frequently to avoid spreading the infection
- For fever and pain relief take acetaminophen or ibuprofen

**If you don't feel better in \_\_\_\_\_ day(s),** go ahead and fill your prescription at the pharmacy.

**If you feel better, you do not need the antibiotic** and you should throw the prescription away.

**If you feel worse,** please contact your health care provider.

Antibiotics should only be taken when your health care provider says. Unnecessary antibiotic use can contribute to antibiotics not working in the future when needed to treat bacterial infections. Antibiotics side effects include diarrhea, rash, disturbing gut microbiome and, rarely, allergic reactions, kidney or liver damage.