



MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION TIPS & TRICKS

Helping you, to help your
children feel better



MEDICATION SAFETY

- Never refer to medicine as candy to get your child to take it as this could cause an accidental overdose by the child taking dangerous medicine thinking it is a sweet treat
- Explain that it can make them feel better but should always be taken with supervision
- Make sure to store medication in a safe place, out of reach of children, and that safety caps are engaged

COMMON ANTIBIOTICS PRESCRIBED

Medication	Forms Supplied
Amoxicillin	Liquid, tablets, capsules, and chewable
Augmentin (Amoxicillin/Clavulanate Potassium)	Liquid, tablets, chewable
Cefdinir	Liquid, capsules
Azithromycin	Liquid, tablets
Keflex (Cephalexin)	Liquid, tablets, capsules
Bactrim (Sulfamethoxazole / Trimethoprim)	Liquid, tablets

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TIPS

- Break up the dose into smaller amounts
 - For example, if they are due for 8 mL of Amoxicillin, try giving 2 mL at a time
 - Ensure that the full dose is given and try to complete full dose within 1 hour
- Offer rewards and praise your child when medication is taken successfully
- Instead of putting liquid forms of medication into a medication cup, use a medical syringe for easier administration
- When using a syringe, squirt the medication into the cheek where there are no tastebuds rather than placing onto their tongue



WAYS TO GIVE MEDICATION

- When picking up the medication, consult the pharmacy staff to be aware of the form of medication that has been prescribed and if it can be crushed, split, or opened before doing so
- Try mixing medications with foods such as applesauce, pudding, ice cream, marshmallow fluff, chocolate or strawberry syrup, powder drink packets like KoolAid, liquid drink flavoring, putting medicine into the top of fruit pouch, or any other food your child enjoys
- For liquid medications specifically you can try: squirting liquid medications into pastries such as donut holes, use food coloring to change color of medication, giving with bites of frozen lemonade





IMPORTANCE OF ANTIBIOTIC ADHERENCE

When antibiotics are not taken as prescribed or the treatment is stopped too early, the remaining bacteria can continue to multiply and could become resistant to the antibiotics causing a longer recovery time, prolonged symptoms, recurrence of infection, and the possibility of needing more medication



COMMON ANTIBIOTIC SIDE EFFECTS & HOME CARE

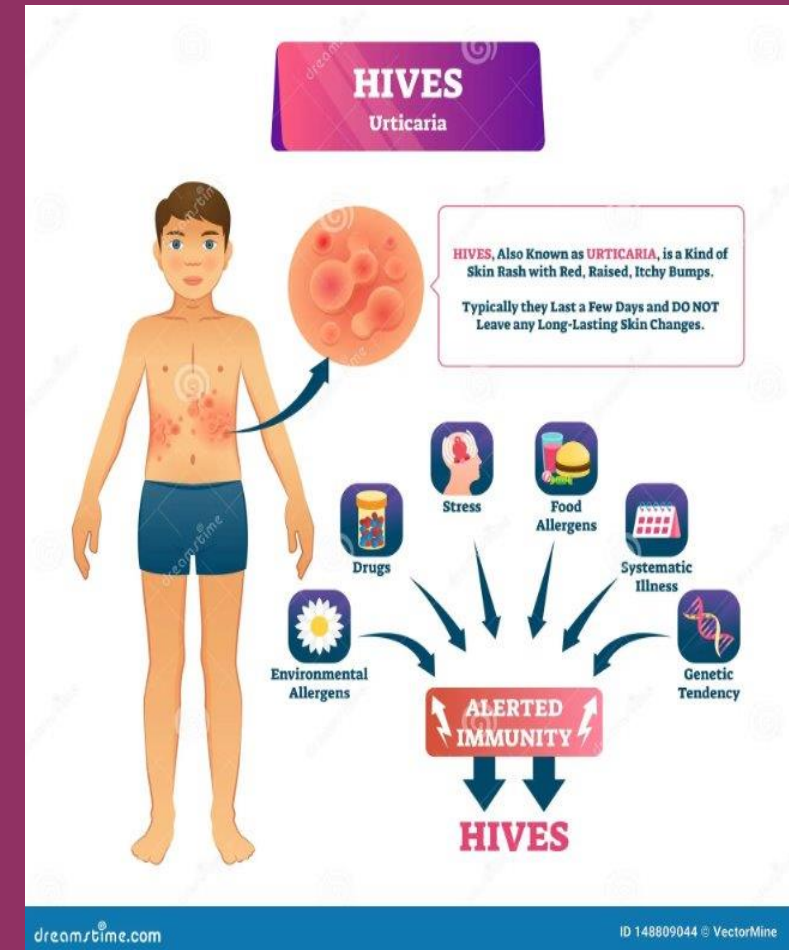
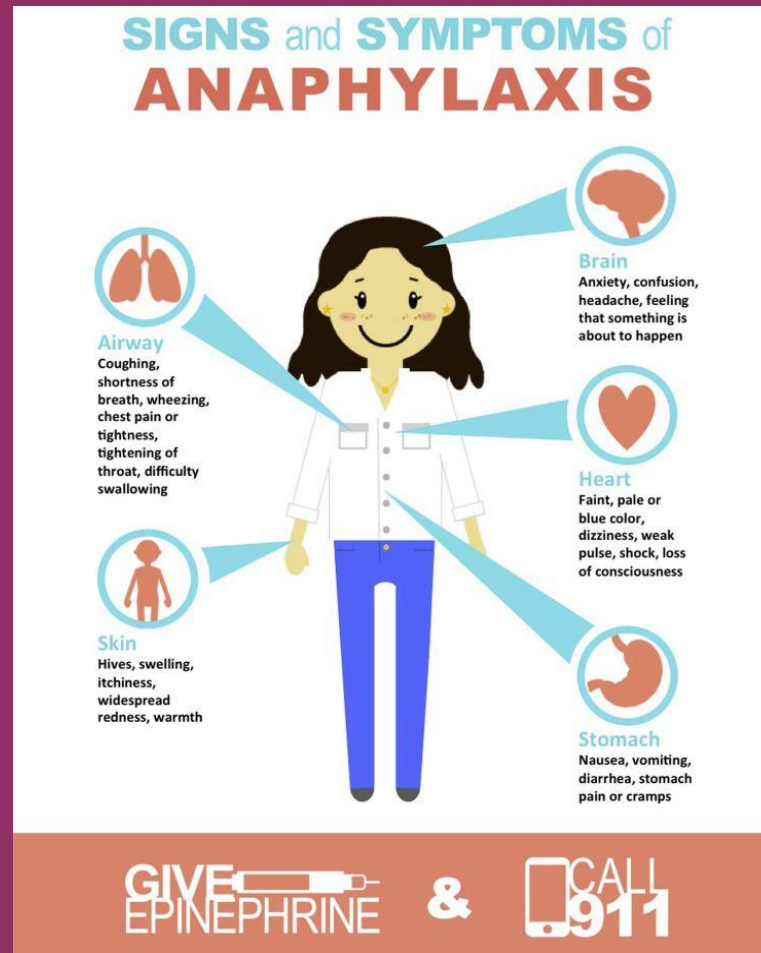
- Stomach upset
- Nausea
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

- Addition of a probiotic to maintain the "good" bacteria of the GI tract
 - While taking antibiotics, this normal bacteria can also be treated along with the "bad" bacteria that may increase likelihood of GI upset
- Wait until there's been no vomiting for 1 hour then have patient sip 1 oz of fluids every 15-20 minutes. If child keeps that down for 30 to 45 minutes, give 1-2 oz of fluids and then slowly increase, but still very small amounts of fluids every 20-30 minutes. If vomiting recurs to wait 1 hour and start over.
- Ensure child is voiding every 6-8 hrs to maintain hydration
- Use the BRAT diet - bananas, rice, applesauce, toast, crackers
- Avoid giving medication on an empty stomach unless otherwise directed by the prescription and pharmacy instruction



ANAPHYLAXIS

- A severe potentially life-threatening allergic reaction
- It can happen seconds or minutes after an exposure to something you are allergic to
- If at any point difficulty breathing or swelling of the lips and tongue becomes present, give epinephrine (if already prescribed) and call 911.
- If there is one symptom, like a rash, ok to give Benadryl.
- At any time if any two symptoms or anaphylaxis become present, give epinephrine (if already prescribed) and call 911





UNABLE TO TAKE ANTIBIOTICS

- If your child is still unable to take the medication as prescribed and these tips are unsuccessful, please call the office and speak to a nurse for further advice and the options of changing the form of the medication prescribed
- If still unsuccessful, other treatment options may be available but vary per patient and may require further evaluation by a provider, please call the office if this is the case.



THANK YOU

