What’s your “antibiotic IQ”?

True or False:

1. Antibiotics will zap a nasty cold or a bad case of the flu – in short order.

2. Antibiotics are good for treating strep throat.

3. Antibiotics won’t help if you have a chest cold – but you’ll need them if you have acute bronchitis.

4. If you have green or yellow nasal drainage, your illness is caused by bacteria – not a virus.

5. It doesn’t matter if your child is sick with a virus or some kind of bacteria. You’ll want an antibiotic, all the same.

6. It never does any harm to take an antibiotic – even if your illness isn’t caused by bacteria, and it won’t make you better.

7. You can stop taking an antibiotic as soon as you feel better – and save the leftover antibiotics for the next time you’re sick.

8. It’s no big deal if a few bacteria become resistant to some kinds of antibiotics – there’s always something else you can take.

(Answers on other side.)

Don’t count on being able to use something else if a “superbug” makes you sick. We only have a limited number of antibiotics available. Other “superbugs” have developed resistance to even stronger drugs. If your illness isn’t caused by bacteria, it won’t respond to antibiotics. So you may be wasting your money. And if you use antibiotics to treat a virus, you may not be killing off the germs that make you sick. If you’re really not sure, you may not be using the right antibiotic. For some illnesses, the right antibiotic is the only way to kill off all of the germs that make you sick.

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