

Post-test Questions

1. Define the term "antibiotic resistance".
2. Describe at least one mechanism of the development of antibiotic resistance.
3. Define at least three factors that contribute to antibiotic resistance in LTCF residents.
4. List at least three action steps that you can take in your nursing practice to prevent antibiotic resistance and the spread of antibiotic-resistant organisms in LTCF.



Minnesota Department of Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division
PO Box 64975, Saint Paul, MN 55164-0975
651-201-5414 or 1-877-676-5414 www.health.state.mn.us

Post-test Answers

1. Define the term "antibiotic resistance".

Answer: Antibiotic resistance is the ability of an organism to mutate or change to fight against antibiotics intended to kill it.

2. Describe at least one mechanism of the development of antibiotic resistance.

Answers:

- Changes in genes (mutations)
- Acquire new genes from other bacteria (gene transfer).

3. Define at least three factors that contribute to antibiotic resistance in LTCF residents.

Answers:

- Taking antibiotics for a viral infection
- Not finishing the full course of antibiotics
- Use of a broad-spectrum antibiotic (ciprofloxacin) when a narrow-spectrum antibiotic (penicillin) would be effective
- Prescribing antibiotics for too many days

4. List at least three action steps that you can take in your nursing practice to prevent antibiotic resistance and the spread of antibiotic-resistant organisms in LTCF.

Answers:

- Take antibiotics only for bacterial infections. Let your healthcare provider decide if antibiotics are needed to treat your infection!
- Do not demand antibiotics: for yourself, your family, or LTCF residents. Finish the entire prescription - even if the symptoms resolve. Not completing a course of antibiotics contributes to antibiotic resistance.
- Do not share antibiotics with others - even if they have the same symptoms.
- Stay home from work when you're sick
- Get a flu shot every year
- Follow recommended infection prevention and control practices:

- At a minimum, use Standard Precautions in the care of all residents.
- Practice excellent hand hygiene; clean your hands every time you provide care for a resident.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or use your sleeve (near the shoulder or elbow).
- Educate residents and family members about antibiotic resistance and infection prevention measures.
- Be aware that symptoms of bacterial and viral infections are often similar and that antibiotics are never effective against viral infections.
- Perform a thorough nursing assessment prior to contacting a physician or nurse practitioner about a resident's change in status.
- Document observations and assessment findings; communicate clearly and accurately to the resident's clinician.