

Medicine shortages

What to do if my antibiotic is out of stock?



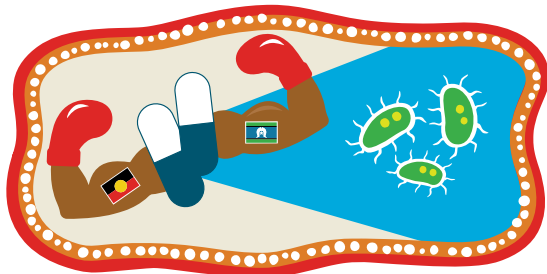
It is important to take your antibiotics to help you get better.

Antibiotics are medicines that stop germs, like bacteria, that are making you sick.

If you can't get your antibiotic, talk to a trusted health worker. This includes your doctor, pharmacist, nurse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker or Health Practitioner.

They might be able to get the medicine for you or find another medicine that works. For you, this might mean:

- A change in **brand** of the same antibiotic.
- A **different antibiotic** that will kill or stop this germ.
- A different **strength** of antibiotic.
- The antibiotic comes in a different **way** e.g. a tablet or capsule instead of a liquid.

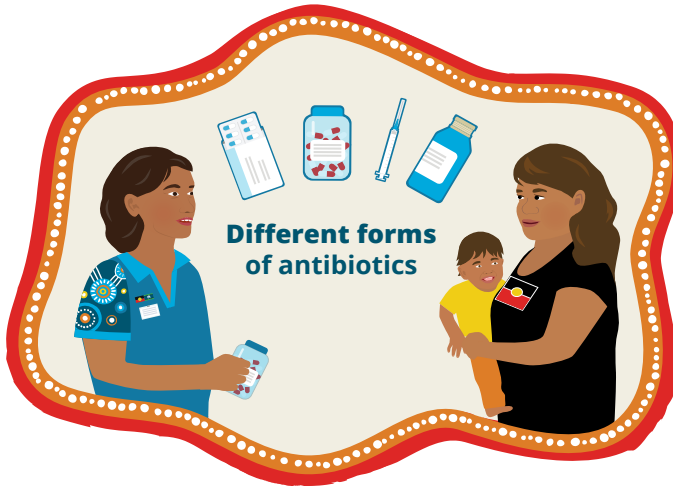


What if my antibiotic changes?

Antibiotics may come in more than one brand. A different brand of antibiotic might be a different colour or shape or box. The doctor or pharmacist may give you a different antibiotic. There is often more than one antibiotic that will fight the germ making you sick.

What if the strength changes?

If the strength changes, a trusted health worker should tell you how to take it. This may mean breaking a tablet, taking a different number of tablets or capsules or measuring the liquid.



Different forms of antibiotics

What does a different way mean?

Antibiotics come in tablets, capsules, liquids and injections. If there is no liquid to use, you might get a tablet or capsule to use instead.

You might need to break a tablet or open and empty the capsule. Your trusted health worker should tell you if you can.

Crushed medicine may not taste nice, but you can:

- Mix it with a small amount of cordial, milk, jam or yoghurt (take it all, don't leave leftovers). Ask what is best for your antibiotic.
- Take it straight after crushing or mixing with food or drink.



Anything else I need to know?

- A different brand or a different antibiotic may cost more. Ask your health service or pharmacist if they can help with this.
- Check how long to take your antibiotic for: on the pharmacy label or with the health worker.
- Do not share your antibiotics with others or keep for next time.

Local information here, if required.