Take antibiotics only when prescribed by a doctor for bacterial infections. Do not take them for illnesses caused by viruses such as colds and influenza. They will not work.

Antibiotics are medicines used to treat infections caused by bacteria such as tuberculosis, blood stream infections and pneumonia. They kill the bacteria or stop them from growing.

Antibiotic resistance arises when bacteria change to protect themselves against an antibiotic.

Resistance is increasing and the number of effective antibiotics is decreasing. This means that one day no antibiotics may be left to fight life-threatening diseases.

In the last 25 YEARS no new antibiotics have been developed.

Antibiotics and vaccinations have added 20 YEARS to our lives.

9 OUT OF 10 TIMES a sore throat is caused by a virus.

WHAT DO ANTIBIOTICS DO?
Antibiotics are medicines used to treat infections caused by bacteria such as tuberculosis, blood stream infections and pneumonia. They kill the bacteria or stop them from growing.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?
- Use antibiotics only when prescribed by a doctor, and ensure your family does so.
- Take the full prescription, even if you are feeling better.
- Never share antibiotics with others or use leftover prescriptions.

More information at http://www.euro.who.int/amr