Prescribers/Clinicians:
Reducing duration of antibiotic therapy in long-term care

Antibiotic use drives selective pressure

Selective pressure kills susceptible bacteria and allows resistant organisms to thrive and multiply.

1. Before
2. Short duration
3. Long duration

Shorter courses are as effective as longer courses

- **Uncomplicated cystitis**
  - Short: 3-6 days
  - Long: 7-14 days
- **Pneumonia**
  - Short: 5 days
  - Long: 7-10 days
- **Cellulitis**
  - Short: 5 days
  - Long: 10 days

Based on studies in hospitalized and ambulatory patients for common infections seen in long-term care.

Shorter courses have a lower risk of harm

For more information, see Reducing Duration of Antibiotic Treatment for Common Infections in Long-Term Care or visit publichealthontario.ca/ASPinLTC.