Antibiotic overuse in Ontario’s long-term care homes

What is the problem?

50% of antibiotic courses are unnecessary¹

78% of residents receive at least one antibiotic course each year²

How are antibiotics overused?

There is variability in prescribing:

10x

Homes with the highest use are using 10x more antibiotics than homes with the lowest use

Duration of therapy is often longer than necessary²

Prescriber preference is the key reason for differences - not resident characteristics²

Why is this important?

Residents in homes with higher antibiotic use experience more harm:

24% increased risk of Clostridium difficile infection, diarrhea, allergic reactions and antibiotic-resistant organisms³

What can you do?

Practice antibiotic stewardship:

- reduce unnecessary antibiotic prescriptions
- re-assess the need for antibiotics regularly
- use the shortest effective duration possible

For more information regarding antimicrobial stewardship: www.publichealthontario.ca/asp

