

WHY ANTIBIOTICS ARE IMPORTANT FOR... JOINT REPLACEMENT PATIENTS

Infections at the site of joint replacements can cause pain, longer hospital stays, and cause the joint replacement to fail.

Why do joint replacement patients need antibiotics?

- Joint replacements are often necessary because of damage to existing joints through wear and tear as the person ages, arthritis, or after a joint injury.
- 1 out of 100 joint replacement patients get at least one infection at the site of the replaced joint.
- Infections can cause: pain, loss of mobility, extended hospital stays, lengthened recovery times, and joint replacement failure.
- Infections from joint replacements usually occur in hospitals, where the numbers of antibiotic resistant infections are increasing.

Antibiotics are crucial for controlling these infections and preventing joint replacements from failing.

Most joint replacement patients will need antibiotics to stay healthy. Antibiotic resistance means that current antibiotics may not work. In addition, few new treatments are being developed. This means that increasing numbers of patients may suffer, and may have to undergo further joint replacements, because doctors may not be able to control infections.

It is VITAL that we preserve our antibiotics, minimise the spread of bacteria, and protect joint replacement patients from catching antibiotic-resistant infections.

- 1. Don't ask and don't expect antibiotics for colds, sore throats, or flu—these are caused by viruses so antibiotics don't work.**
- 2. Only take antibiotics given to you by your doctor and EXACTLY as written on the bottle and always complete the full course.**
- 3. Never give your antibiotics to other people.**

