

Antibiotic Tip Sheet for Frontline Nursing and CMT Staff

Risk Factors

These increase the potential for ADEs. Multiple factors increase risk.

- History of renal disease/insufficiency
- Concurrent administration with:
 - Medications that raise PT/INR or PTT
 - Phenytoin
 - Other antibiotics

Signs & Symptoms

Any of these may indicate an ADE may have occurred.

- Elevated kidney function tests
- Elevated liver function tests
- Elevated serum potassium
- Decrease in platelets
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Flushing of skin
- Lethargy
- Dizziness
- Hearing loss
- Rash
- Seizures
- Ventricular arrhythmias
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Esophagitis
- Symptoms of hypoglycemia
- Phlebitis

Clinical Interventions

If any of these actions have occurred, the facility should conduct an investigation to determine if an ADE has occurred.

- Orders for abrupt discontinuation of antibiotic medication
- ECG order
- Order for STAT lab work

Quality Improvement

Access HQIN's [Antibiotic Adverse Drug Events Self-Assessment](#) to assess your organization's commitment to preventing antibiotic ADEs.