

Supplementary information

Supplementary appendix 2. Patient questionnaire.

ID no:

Recently, within the last few days, your doctor gave you a prescription for antibiotics but suggested that you should wait for a day or two before deciding whether or not to take them. We would be very interested to know what you think about this.

If the antibiotics were prescribed for your child, please answer for him/her.

*How old are you? (If the antibiotics were prescribed for your child, please write his/her age instead)

*Are you male or female? (If the antibiotics were prescribed for your child, please write his/her sex instead)
.....

*What (if any) is the job of the main wage earner in your household?

*Do you pay for your prescriptions?

*Could you briefly describe the symptoms that took you to the doctor on this occasion? (e.g. fever, headache, cough, ear-ache, muzzy head, etc)

*Before you saw your GP, did you expect that he/she would (please circle all that apply)

- a) give you a prescription for antibiotics
- b) give you a prescription for something else
- c) just reassure you or give advice
- d) arrange tests or a hospital appointment
- e) give you a sickness certificate (sick note) for work
- f) you really didn't know what to expect

*After the doctor suggested leaving it up to you whether you took your antibiotics, how confident did you feel about making this decision? (please circle one)

- a) very confident
- b) fairly confident
- c) neither confident nor unconfident
- d) fairly unconfident
- e) very unconfident

* If you develop a similar problem in future, would you like to be prescribed antibiotics like this again (i.e. it's left up to you whether you take them)? Yes/No

* The two main types of bugs that can cause infections are viruses and bacteria. Do you feel that you have a rough idea of the difference between these two? (please circle one)

- a) little or no idea
- b) some idea
- c) a good idea
- d) a full understanding

Now please turn over ...

Supplementary information

*We would be interested to know whether you took any of the antibiotics you were prescribed. (There's no problem either way — we simply want to know what happens when people are prescribed antibiotics like this.)

Did you take ANY of the antibiotics?

YES

Then please fill in this column

*Did you take (please circle one)

ALL the antibiotics?

SOME of the antibiotics
(roughly how many days' worth?)

*How soon did you start taking the antibiotics? (please circle one)

- a) on the day that you saw the doctor
- b) the next day
- c) the day after that
- d) within a week of seeing the doctor
- e) after more than a week

*Why did you decide to start taking the antibiotics? (circle any that apply)

- a) to be on the safe side in case it was serious
- b) you felt that you always needed antibiotics in the first place
- c) symptoms were going on too long (how long?)
- d) symptoms were getting worse
- e) you were concerned about particular symptoms (which symptoms? — e.g. fever, earache etc)
- f) just in case it might help
- g) not sure what to do so took them anyway
- h) other reasons (please specify)

Are there any other comments that you would like to make?

NO

Then please fill in this column

*Although you didn't take them, did you still collect the antibiotics from the chemist?
Yes/No

If yes — do you still have them?
Yes/No

*Why did you decide not to take the antibiotics? (circle any that apply)

- a) didn't think that they were necessary from the start
- b) symptoms improved without them
- c) afraid they might interfere with other medicines you were taking
- d) afraid of side effects
- e) not sure what to do, so just waited
- f) other reason (please specify)

Thank you; now please return this questionnaire in the SAE provided!