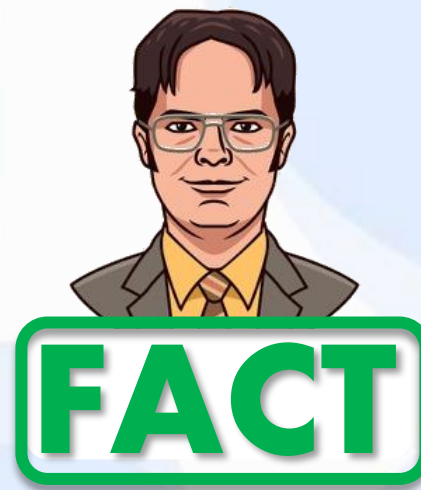




OR



Fake news: Antimicrobials do no harm **X**



All antimicrobials have the potential to harm



Fact: Taking antimicrobials when necessary can be lifesaving, but taking antimicrobials when not needed increases the risk of side effects and subsequent infection with resistant organisms, which are more complex and harder to treat.

Fake news: Intravenous is better than oral **X**



Oral antimicrobials can be just as effective as intravenous



Fact: In most cases, oral antimicrobials are equally effective and may be used if the patient is clinically improving, tolerating oral intake, has no gastrointestinal problems affecting absorption and an effective oral drug is available for the infection.

Fake news: Broader spectrum means more powerful; 'if my patient is improving, there is no need to change therapy' **X**



De-escalation should be considered



Fact: Broad spectrum antimicrobials are often used empirically if a patient is very unwell. As the patient improves, microbiology and / or clinical criteria can safely guide de-escalation to narrower spectrum antimicrobials.



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***Note:** Antimicrobials should always be prescribed according to the patient's clinical condition and the recommended guidelines. If unsure, consult infectious diseases or clinical microbiology.*