

## BACKGROUND

- Antibiotics are commonly prescribed to nursing home (NH) residents in the absence of a bacterial infection
- Antibiotic use increases NH residents' risk for serious adverse events
- Little is known of NH resident perspectives of the benefits and risks to antibiotic use

## PURPOSE

- Describe NH resident perspectives of the benefits and risks related to antibiotic use

## METHODS

- In-depth semi-structured interviews conducted with NH residents residing in a large 845-bed NH facility
- Interview data analyzed using conventional content analysis

## RESULTS

- Twenty-six NH residents participated in semi-structured interviews; mean age, 76 (Table)

Table. Characteristics of Study Participants	
	No. (%)
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	11(42)
Female	15 (58)
<b>Race</b>	
White	21(81)
Black or African American	4 (15)
Not Provided	1 (4)
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
Non-Hispanic	22 (84)
Hispanic	3 (12)
Not Provided	1 (4)
<b>Education</b>	
High School Graduate/GED	8 (31)
College	15 (57)
Master's Degree	2 (8)
Not Provided	1(4)

## THEMATIC FINDINGS

### THEME 1: VARIED INVOLVEMENT IN ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT DECISIONS

- **Requesting or Demanding Antibiotics:** Participants described "knowing" their bodies and when they needed antibiotics
- **Leaving it to Prescribers:** Participants described a hands-off approach to antibiotic use

#### Requesting Antibiotics

"I know if I have something, I need to have an antibiotic right away and they gave me a little bit of a hard time because they said we'll have to wait to see how you do and I said I'm not waiting. I need the antibiotic now."

#### Leaving it up to Prescribers

"If they are taking care of it and they are giving it to me, I wouldn't care. They know when to give it to me"

### THEME 2: PERCEIVED BENEFITS AND RISKS TO ANTIBIOTIC USE

- **Benefits:** Symptom relief and cure were described as antibiotic benefits
- **Risks:** Risks of antibiotics were commonly poorly described

#### Benefits of Antibiotics

"Well, antibiotics is good to kill any infections you have. Like if you have a tooth, a gum, like an infection in your mouth, that's good for that."

#### Risks of Antibiotics

"Has there been, like, serious illness as a result of antibiotics?"

### THEME 3: UNMET INFORMATIONAL NEEDS

- **Insufficient Information Provided:** Participants described a lack of antibiotic-related information provided by care team
- **Memory Challenges:** Participants described difficulty recalling conversations in which care team members described specifics regarding antibiotic prescription

#### Insufficient Information Provided

"They don't tell you nothing about what you're going to take other than 'This is good for you'

#### Memory

"When they tell me things [about antibiotics]...I remember them at the time they tell them to me, but then later I forget them."

### THEME 4: OVERCOMING INFORMATIONAL NEEDS

- **Obtaining Information:** Participants themselves or their family members actively researched antibiotic prescriptions to obtain desired information
- **Suggestions for Future:** Participants described the benefit of having written material regarding antibiotic prescriptions and provided information that would be helpful

#### Obtaining Information

"If they give me an antibiotic or anything, I'll look it up on the computer."

#### Suggestions for Future

"Find out how long of a period I am going to take it"  
"What kind of side effects can I expect from this?"  
"Will [drug] mix well with all my other medications?"

## Discussion

- We found NH residents had unmet information needs regarding their antibiotic treatment plans and desired to be further engaged in their antibiotic treatment
- Study results will lay the foundation for tools that facilitate NH resident engagement in their antibiotic treatment plans