

Antibiotic Stewardship

- The commitment to always use antibiotics appropriately and safely.

Antibiotic Resistance

- The ability of bacteria to resist the effects of drugs created to destroy them.



How Antibiotic Resistance Happens

1.

Lots of germs.
A few are drug resistant.



2.

Antibiotics kill
bacteria causing the illness,
as well as good bacteria
protecting the body from
infection.



3.

The drug-resistant
bacteria are now allowed to
grow and take over.

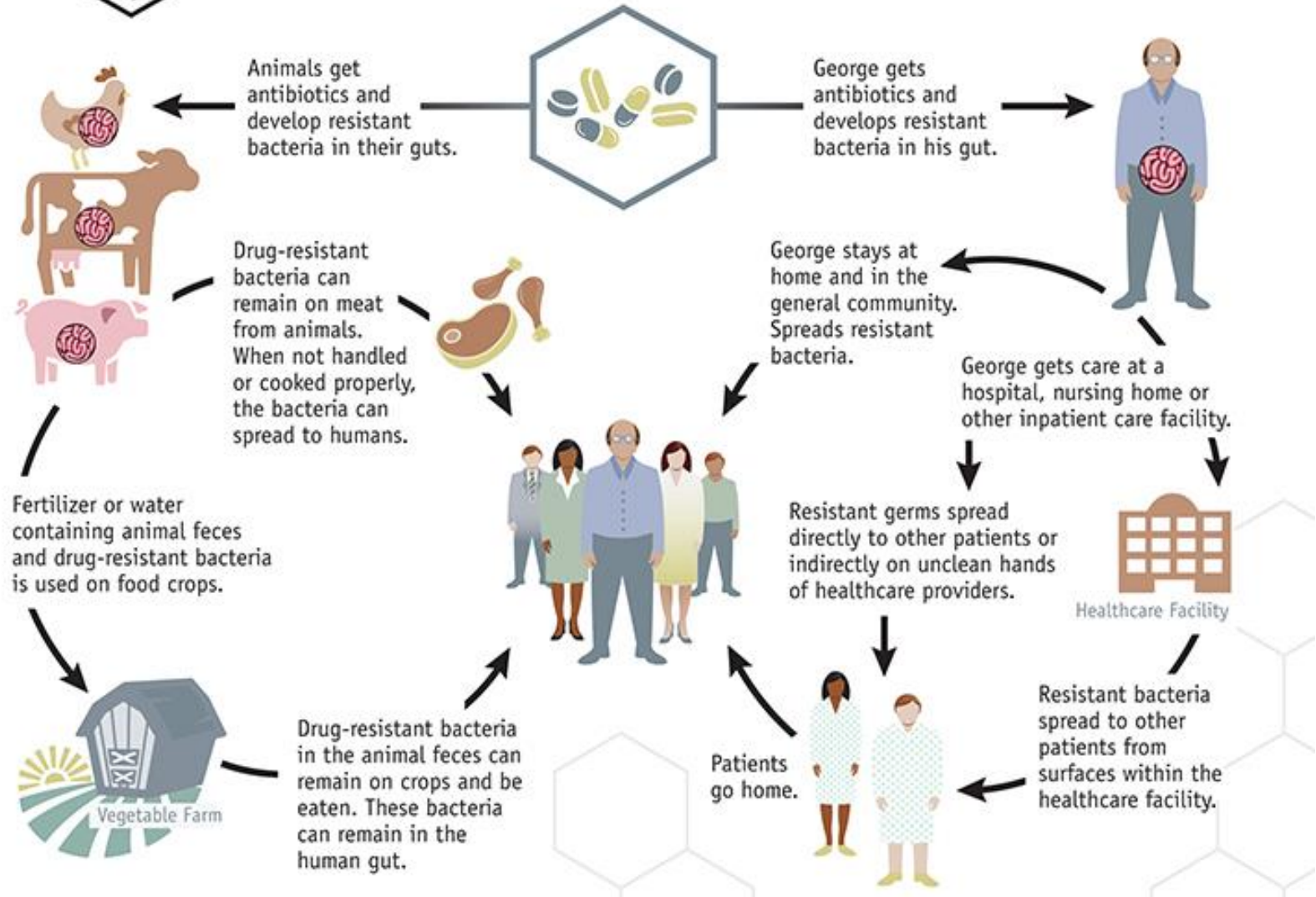


4.

Some bacteria give
their drug-resistance to
other bacteria, causing
more problems.

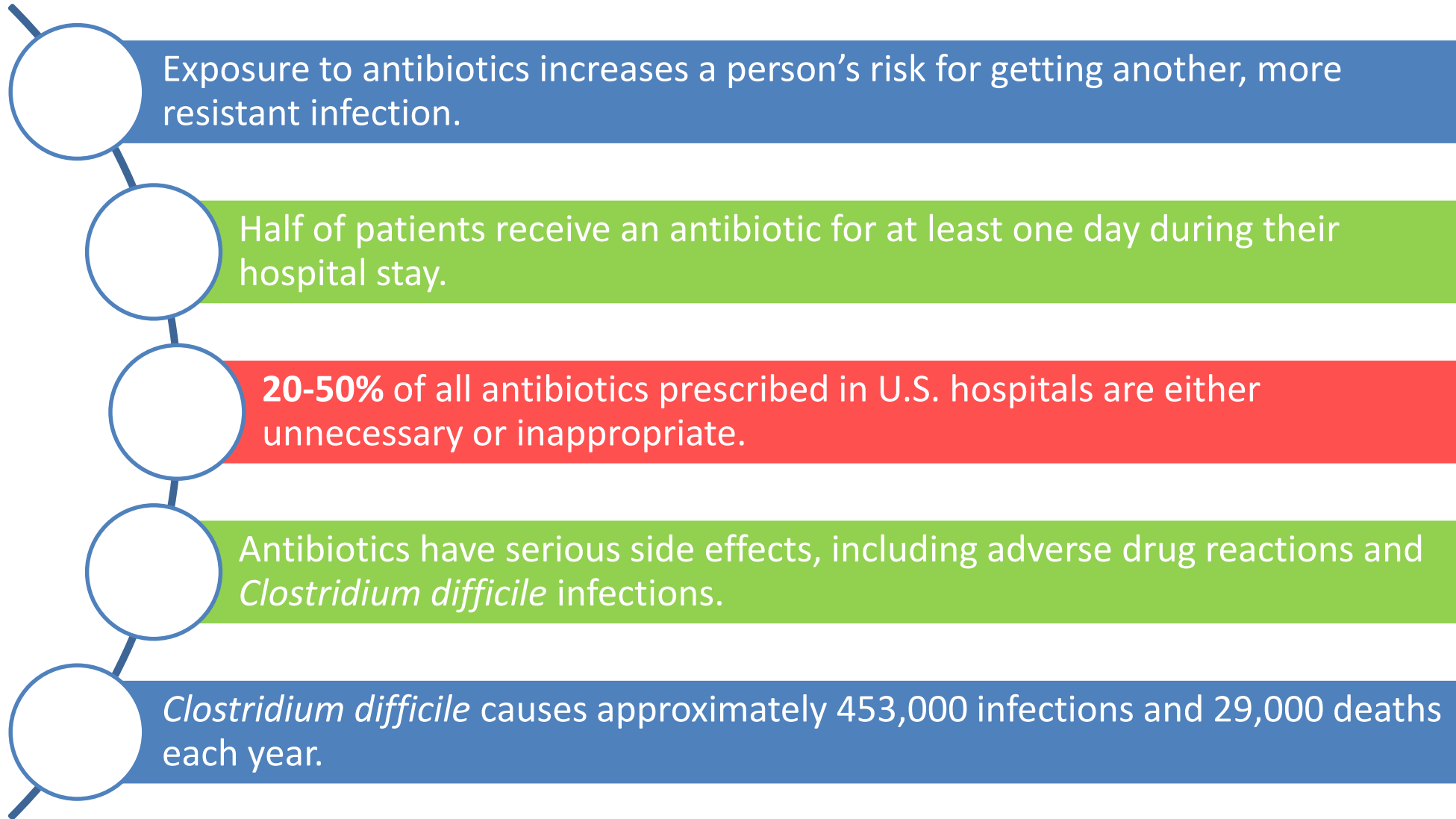


Examples of How Antibiotic Resistance Spreads

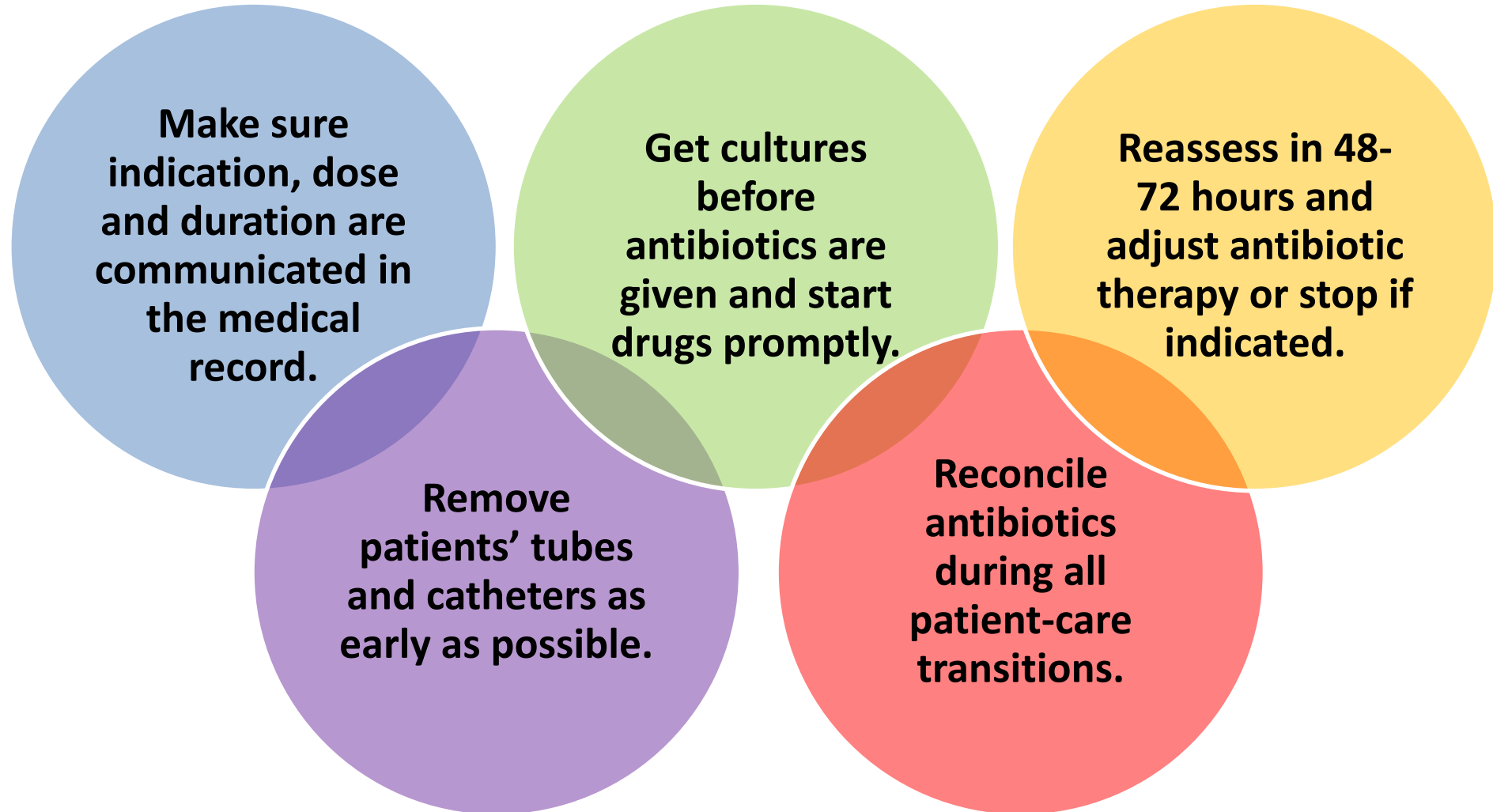


Simply using antibiotics creates resistance. These drugs should only be used to treat infections.

Why do we need antibiotic stewardship?



What can we do to improve antibiotic use?



Which of the following actions will improve antibiotic use?

- a. Make sure indication, dose and duration of antibiotics are communicated in the medical record.
- b. Get cultures before antibiotics are given and start drugs promptly.
- c. Reassess in 48-72 hours and adjust antibiotic therapy or stop if indicated.
- d. Reconcile antibiotics during all patient-care transitions.
- e. All of the above.