

5.4. How medicines work

Symptoms and cures

How do you know when you have the flu?

When we are ill, we have signs of the illness called **symptoms**.

Different illnesses have different symptoms.

Look at the picture below to see some of the symptoms of flu. One of these symptoms is a fever. Medicines help to take away the symptoms of the illness.

Often we become ill because **germs** enter our body. Medicines can help to kill the **germs** and make the illness go away. When medicines make an illness go away, we say that the medicines **cure** us.



Medicines make us better but we have to take them safely. You should only take medicines if they are given to you by a doctor, a nurse or an adult who looks after you. Sometimes a doctor will prescribe medicines.