

When to take antibiotics before a procedure

You may need to take antibiotics before having a dental, surgical or other medical procedures. Certain procedures such as surgery or dental work (like having a tooth removed or a root canal) may allow bacteria from your mouth to enter your bloodstream. This can cause an infection on your heart valves, called infective endocarditis.

Because you have had one of the conditions below, you are at higher risk for developing these infections when you undergo some of the procedures listed on the back page. Taking antibiotics can prevent these infections from occurring.

This handout will give you information on when to take antibiotics before a procedure, also called antibiotic prophylaxis.

You have:

- had heart valve replacement (tissue or mechanical) or repair with prosthetic material
- had infective endocarditis
- a congenital heart defect:
 - cyanotic congenital heart defect that has not been fully repaired, including those with conduits and surgical shunts
 - that was completely repaired (including closure devices) in the last 6 months
 - that was not completely repaired (you still have some defects)
 - that has not been repaired (excluding atrial septal defect and congenital valvular lesions)
- had a heart transplant and developed cardiac valvulopathy

When do I need to take antibiotics?

You need to take antibiotics:

- Before you see the **dentist** where you will have work done on your gums such as a cleaning, root canal or a tooth removed, or if you have an infected tooth.
 - NOT** when you see the dentist for:
 - x-rays
 - placement of a removable prosthodontic or orthodontic appliance or placement of orthodontic brackets
 - NOT** when you have trauma that causes your lips to bleed such as from biting your lip, falling on your face or having a fist blow to the face.
- Before you have a tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy or bronchoscopy with a biopsy (where a piece of tissue is taken from the lungs NOT washings where water is injected and suctioned back again)
 - NOT** before procedures such as:
 - A colonoscopy (use of a scope to examine the colon).
 - A cystoscopy (use of a scope to examine the bladder).
 - An esophageal gastroduodenoscope (use of a scope to examine the upper part of the gastrointestinal tract).
 - Any surgery where you will have an anesthetic.
The anesthesiologist will give antibiotics to you to before your surgery.



If you are not sure whether to take the antibiotics, call your dentist, doctor who will do the procedure or surgeon.

How do I take the antibiotics?



Take the antibiotics 30 to 60 minutes before your procedure as describe in the attached prescription.

Prescription

Name: _____

Address: _____

DOB: _____

Please check one only:

- Amoxicillin 500 mg capsules
Take 4 capsules (2 g) by mouth 30 to 60 min before the procedure
M: 20 tablets; No repeats

OR if severe penicillin allergy:

- Clindamycin 300 mg capsules
Take 2 capsules (600mg) by mouth 30 to 60 min before the procedure
M: 10 tablets; No repeats
- Azithromycin 250 mg capsules
Take 2 capsules (500 mg) by mouth 30 to 60 min before the procedure
M: 10 tablets; No repeats

For community pharmacies

Please indicate on the bottle the original expiry date of the product, or 12 months from dispensing date, whichever is earlier. Patients should be reminded to store medications at room temperature (15°C to 30°C) in a tightly closed container away from heat and direct light.

Name of prescriber: _____

Signature of prescriber: _____

CPSO #: _____

Date: _____