

## PREVENTION OF INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS

**This wallet card is to be given to patients (or parents) by their health care professional. Please see back of card for reference to the complete statement.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Needs protection from  
**INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS**  
because of an existing heart condition.

Diagnosis: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescribed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You received this wallet card because you are at increased risk for developing adverse outcomes from infective endocarditis (IE). The recommendations for prevention of IE shown in this card are based on the most current evidence.

Members of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines and the American Heart Association's Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease Committee, together with national and international experts on IE, extensively reviewed published studies in order to determine whether dental, gastrointestinal (GI) or genitourinary (GU) tract procedures are possible causes of IE. Findings from these studies showed no conclusive evidence linking GI or GU tract procedures with the development of IE. They also concluded that antibiotics before dental procedures are reasonable only for certain patients at increased risk of developing IE and at highest risk of poor outcomes from IE.

The practice of routinely giving antibiotics to patients at risk for IE prior to dental procedures is not recommended **EXCEPT** for patients with the highest risk of adverse outcomes resulting from IE (see below on this card). The Committees concluded that only a small number of IE cases might be prevented by antibiotic prophylaxis prior to a dental procedure. In addition, prophylaxis should be reserved **ONLY** for patients with cardiac conditions associated with the highest risk that are listed below. You can reduce the risk of IE by maintaining good oral health through regular professional dental care and the use of dental products, such as manual, powered and ultrasonic toothbrushes; dental floss; and other plaque-removal devices.

This guidance does not change the fact that your cardiac condition may put you at increased risk for developing IE. If you develop signs or symptoms of IE — such as unexplained fever — see your doctor right away. If blood cultures are necessary (to determine if endocarditis is present), it is important for your doctor to obtain these cultures and other relevant tests **BEFORE** antibiotics are started.

**Antibiotic prophylaxis is reasonable before dental procedures that involve manipulation of the gingival tissue, manipulation of the periapical region of teeth, or perforation of the oral mucosa in patients with valvular heart disease who have any of the following:**

- Prosthetic cardiac valves, including transcatheter-implanted prostheses and homografts
- Prosthetic material used for cardiac valve repair, such as annuloplasty rings, chords or clips
- Previous IE
- Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart defect (CHD) or repaired CHD, with residual shunts or valvular regurgitation at the site of or adjacent to the site of a prosthetic patch or prosthetic device\*
- Cardiac transplant with valve regurgitation due to a structurally abnormal valve

\* Except for the conditions listed above, antibiotic prophylaxis before dental procedures is not recommended for any other types of CHD.

Dental procedures for which prophylaxis is reasonable in patients with cardiac conditions are listed on reverse side.

Antibiotic prophylaxis is **NOT** recommended for the following dental procedures or events: routine anesthetic injections through noninfected tissue; taking dental radiographs; placement of removable prosthodontic or orthodontic appliances; adjustment of orthodontic appliances; placement of orthodontic brackets; and shedding of deciduous teeth and bleeding from trauma to the lips or oral mucosa.

### Antibiotic Prophylactic Regimens for Dental Procedures

*Regimen – Single dose 30 to 60 minutes before procedure*

Situation	Agent	Adults	Children
Oral	Amoxicillin	2 g	50 mg/kg
Unable to take oral medication	Ampicillin <b>OR</b>	2 g IM or IV	50 mg/kg IM or IV
	Cefazolin or ceftriaxone	1 g IM or IV	50 mg/kg IM or IV
Allergic to penicillins or ampicillin—oral regimen	Cephalexin*	2 g	50 mg/kg
	<b>OR</b>		
	Azithromycin or clarithromycin	500 mg	15 mg/kg
	<b>OR</b>		
	Doxycycline	100 mg	<45 kg, 2.2 mg/kg >45 kg, 100 mg
Allergic to penicillin or ampicillin and unable to take oral medication	Cefazolin or ceftriaxone†	1 g IM or IV	50 mg/kg IM or IV

Clindamycin is no longer recommended for antibiotic prophylaxis for a dental procedure. IM indicates intramuscular; and IV, intravenous.

\* Or other first- or second-generation oral cephalosporin in equivalent adult or pediatric dosing.

† Cephalosporins should not be used in an individual with a history of anaphylaxis, angioedema, or urticarial with penicillin oral ampicillin.

#### Nondental Procedures:

In patients with valvular heart disease who are at high risk of IE, antibiotic prophylaxis is not recommended for nondental procedures (e.g., TEE, esophagogastroduodenoscopy, colonoscopy or cystoscopy) in the absence of active infection.

**Other Procedures:** Prophylaxis for procedures involving the respiratory tract, infected skin and skin structures, tissues just under the skin or musculoskeletal tissue is discussed in the documents referenced below.

Prevention of Viridans Group Streptococcal Infective Endocarditis: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2021;143:e227–e237. Accessible at <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000969>

2020 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Management of Patients With Valvular Heart Disease: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. *Circulation*. 2021;143:e72–e227. Accessible at <https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIR.0000000000000923>

Health care professionals – Please refer to the above guidance for additional information regarding the use of antibiotic prophylaxis to reduce risk of infective endocarditis.



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