



Joint Replacement Premedication Guidelines

This letter is meant to update you regarding the current recommendations made by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons for the use of antibiotics when you have dental work. **Please note that this letter indicates a change from previous literature which recommended to discontinue premed after two years of your joint replacement.**

The bacteria commonly found in the mouth may travel through the bloodstream and settle in your artificial joint. This increases your risk of contracting an infection. Your dentist and your orthopaedic surgeon, working together, will develop an appropriate course of treatment for you.

One of these preventive antibiotics may be prescribed for you:

- If you are NOT allergic to penicillin: 2 grams of amoxicillin, cephalexin or cephadrine (orally) OR 2 grams of ampicillin or 1 gram of cefazolin (intramuscularly or intravenously) 1 hour before the procedure.
- If you are allergic to penicillin: 600 milligrams of clindamycin (orally or intravenously) 1 hour before the procedure.

These guidelines were developed by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Dental Association. They are designed to help dentists make decisions about preventive antibiotics for dental patients with artificial joints.