

How can you *Be Antibiotics Aware* at the dentist?

- Talk to your dentist about when antibiotics are and are not needed as part of your dental care.
- Take your antibiotics exactly as prescribed by your dentist.
- Call your dentist immediately if you experience any side effects or allergic reactions.



What should you tell your dentist before you take an antibiotic?

- Any other medical conditions
- Other medications and supplements you are taking
- If you have had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic in the past
- If you have ever had severe diarrhea when taking an antibiotic

This information will help your dentist identify the safest antibiotic for you.

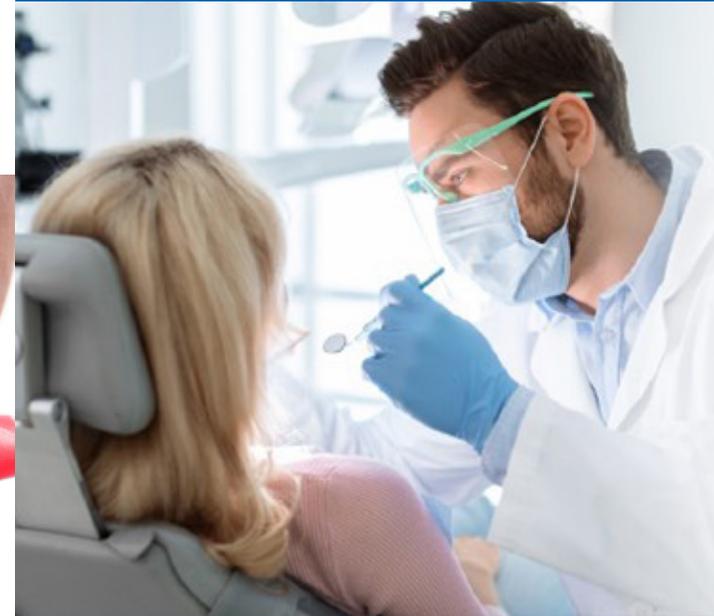


Improving antibiotic use in dental care will keep you healthy now, help prevent side effects, and help fight antimicrobial resistance.

To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.



Antibiotic Use for a Safe Dental Visit



**BE
ANTIBIOTICS
AWARE**

SMART USE, BEST CARE



What do antibiotics do?

- In dentistry, antibiotics treat certain mouth infections caused by bacteria, like an infected tooth.
- Antibiotics are medicines that fight infections caused by bacteria either by killing or stopping the growth of the bacteria.



Antibiotics do not prevent or treat:

- Infections caused by viruses, like cold sores
- Infections caused by fungi, like oral thrush
- Toothaches or other pain from injury, unless the injury has led to a bacterial infection. Ibuprofen or acetaminophen may be recommended to help ease toothache.

Your dentist will determine if an antibiotic is needed as part of your dental care.

What are the possible side effects of taking antibiotics?



Get immediate help if you experience:

- Severe diarrhea, which could be a symptom of a *C. difficile* infection (also called *C. diff*), which can lead to severe colon damage and death.
- Severe and life-threatening allergic reactions, such as wheezing, hives, shortness of breath, and anaphylaxis (which also includes feeling that your throat is closing or choking, or your voice is changing).

When antibiotics aren't needed, they won't help you, and the side effects could still cause harm.

When antibiotics are needed, the benefits outweigh the risks of side effects and antimicrobial resistance.

What is antimicrobial resistance?

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the most urgent threats to the public's health. Any time antibiotics are used, they can cause side effects and contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance.



- Antimicrobial resistance does not mean the body is becoming resistant to antibiotics; it means bacteria develop the ability to defeat the antibiotics designed to kill them.
- When bacteria become resistant, antibiotics cannot fight them, and the bacteria multiply.
- Some resistant bacteria can be harder to treat and can spread to other people.