

Seven Ways Dentists can Act Against Antibiotic Resistance



Dental providers are uniquely positioned to play a role in preventing the spread of antibiotic resistance. Here are seven simple “how-tos” for safe, appropriate antibiotic prescribing and use when treating dental infections.



1

MAKE an accurate diagnosis.

2



When prescribing an antibiotic, **CHOOSE** the right drug for the right dose and duration.

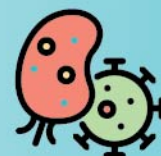
3



USE narrow-spectrum antibiotics for simple infections and preserve broad-spectrum drugs for more complex infections.

4

AVOID prescribing antibiotics for viral infections.



6

KNOW the side effects and drug interactions of an antibiotic before prescribing.



5

For empiric treatment, **REVISE** treatment regimen based on patient progress and/or test results.

7



TEACH your patients about appropriate antibiotic use and emphasize the importance of taking antibiotics exactly as directed.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

To learn more:
<https://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/community/materials-references/print-materials/hcp/>