

# 7 Ways Dentists Can Act Against Antibiotic Resistance



Dentists 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.



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



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



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



**BE  
ANTIBIOTICS  
AWARE**  
SMART USE, BEST CARE

[www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use](http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use)

