



## What do you do if you are prescribed an antibiotic by your dentist?

- Take the antibiotic exactly as the dentist tells you - make sure you know how long you need to take it and when you should take it in relation to any dental procedures you may be having
- Tell your dentist if you have had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic in the past or if you have ever had severe diarrhea when taking an antibiotic
- Let your dentist know about other medications you are taking
- Ask your dentist about what you should do if you have a side effect to the antibiotic
- Do not share antibiotics with others or save for future use
- Talk to you pharmacist about how to properly dispose of old/unused medication

## Who We Are

The Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR) is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the use of antibiotics and reduce antibiotic resistance rates throughout the state of Michigan.

**For more information and materials please visit:**  
**[www.Ferris.edu/MARR](http://www.Ferris.edu/MARR)**



**To learn more about antibiotic prescribing and use, visit**

**<http://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use>**



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## ANTIBIOTIC SAFETY AT THE DENTIST

*Recommendations for use of antibiotics by dentists have changed. Learn the facts BEFORE you take an antibiotic.*



## What is an antibiotic?

An antibiotic is a medicine that kills or stops the growth of bacteria. In addition to killing bacteria that cause infections, antibiotics can also kill "good" bacteria that live in your body. Killing the "good" bacteria may lead to side effects that can range from minor to severe.

## Do you need an antibiotic BEFORE your dental visit?

People with certain medical conditions require antibiotics BEFORE their dental appointment to PREVENT infections. However, recommendations for these situations have changed. Even if you were prescribed antibiotics in the past, your dentist may decide NOT to prescribe one for your current appointment. Talk to your dentist to determine whether antibiotics are necessary for YOUR medical condition and for YOUR planned dental procedure.

## Should ALL oral infections be treated with antibiotics?

Antibiotics are not always necessary for oral infections. Your dentist may prescribe antibiotics IN ADDITION to dental treatment. Your dentist will weigh the risks and benefits before prescribing. Talk to your dentist to determine whether antibiotics are necessary for YOUR infection.

## Some common side effects of antibiotics:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Yeast infections
- Rash
- Dizziness

## Some serious side effects can include:

- Severe and life-threatening allergic reactions
- Clostridium difficile infection

## What is an allergic reaction?

- Usually occurs within 1 hour of taking medication
- Hives (raised patches of skin) and itching after taking an antibiotic
- Difficulty breathing (anaphylaxis)

## What is *not* an allergic reaction?

- Having an upset stomach or diarrhea after having an antibiotic (this is a common side effect)

## Facts about allergies to penicillin:

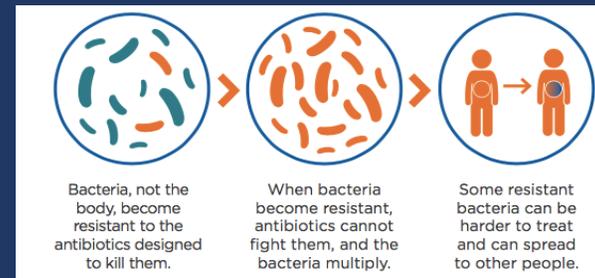
- 10% of the population report an allergy to penicillin but less than 1% of people are truly allergic to penicillin

Often, antibiotics that have more serious side effects than penicillin are prescribed to patients who report that they have had an allergic reaction to penicillin

***Be sure to discuss with your dentist what the symptoms of your reaction were to determine if it was a true allergy!***

## What is antibiotic resistance?

Resistance occurs when the antibiotics we use to treat an infection no longer work. Each time you take an antibiotic, you increase the chance that bacteria in your body may become resistant to the antibiotic.



## What is Clostridium difficile (C. diff) infection?

Clostridium difficile (klos-TRID-e-uhm dif-uh-SEEL) is bacteria that is found in the environment (soil, air, water, animal feces, and in contaminated food products). C diff can also be found in the human colon. Antibiotics can kill "good" bacteria in your colon and this may cause C. diff to grow. People who get infected with C. diff may have diarrhea that is so severe that they have to go to the hospital. This can happen with even one dose of an antibiotic. Each year, about 500,000 people in the United States get C. diff and 15,000 people die.

For more information on CDI, visit [www.peggyfoundation.org](http://www.peggyfoundation.org)

