

## Prevention of Infective Endocarditis

In the October 2007 edition of *Circulation*, the American Heart Association released new guidelines for the prevention of infective endocarditis. Antibiotic prophylaxis prior to dental procedures is now recommended only for those patients with the highest risk of morbidity and mortality from endocarditis. Dental procedures requiring antibiotic prophylaxis are defined as involving “manipulation of gingival tissue or the periapical region of teeth, or perforation of the oral mucosa.” Furthermore, antibiotic prophylaxis is no longer recommended for patients undergoing gastrointestinal or genitourinary procedures. The full text and guidelines can be accessed at:

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/cgi/reprint/CIRCULATIONAHA.106.183095v1>

Download and print cards for patients requiring antibiotic prophylaxis prior to dental procedures at: [http://www.americanheart.org/downloadable/heart/120835704086250-1605\\_PDF%20041608.pdf](http://www.americanheart.org/downloadable/heart/120835704086250-1605_PDF%20041608.pdf)

Here is a summary of the new guidelines:

- ❖ The following cardiac conditions do not require prophylactic antibiotics prior to dental procedures. This is a change from the previous AHA guidelines.
  - Mitral valve prolapse
  - Rheumatic heart disease
  - Congenital heart defects (Ventricular septal defect, Atrial septal defect, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy)
  - Calcified aortic stenosis
  - Bicuspid valve disease
  
- ❖ Prior to dental procedures, antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended for patients with the following cardiac conditions.
  - Prosthetic heart valve
  - History of endocarditis
  - Cardiac transplant patients with valvular heart disease
  - Congenital heart disease with the following conditions
    - Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart disease including those with shunts and conduits
    - Repaired congenital heart disease with prosthetic material for the first six months after the repair
    - Repaired congenital heart disease with residual defects or adjacent to the site of prosthetic material

- ❖ Antibiotic prophylaxis is no longer recommended for patients undergoing gastrointestinal or genitourinary procedures.
- ❖ For full antibiotic prophylactic regimens for dental procedures, please see [http://www.americanheart.org/downloadable/heart/120835704086250-1605\\_PDF%20041608.pdf](http://www.americanheart.org/downloadable/heart/120835704086250-1605_PDF%20041608.pdf)