

# Antibiotic Safety: Do's and Don'ts at the Dentist

## DO

- ✓ **DO** tell your dentist if you have any drug allergies or medical conditions.
- ✓ **DO** tell your dentist about any medications, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking.
- ✓ **DO** ask how some mouth infection can be treated without antibiotics.
- ✓ **DO** take your antibiotics exactly as prescribed.
- ✓ **DO** tell your dentist if you have side effects, such as frequent diarrhea, while taking, or shortly after stopping antibiotics.



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



## DO NOT

- X **DO NOT** skip doses or stop taking your antibiotics without consulting your dentist.
- X **DO NOT** save unused antibiotics for future use or give antibiotics to others.
- X **DO NOT** take antibiotics prescribed for others.
- X **DO NOT** pressure your dentist to prescribe an antibiotic. Instead, ask your dentist how you can feel better even if antibiotics are not prescribed.