

## Dental Prophylaxis for Dialysis Patients

Dialysis patients need to take antibiotics before any dental procedure because there is a risk of infections from germs that can enter the blood during the dental procedure.

### When to take:

The antibiotic should be taken one hour before the dental procedure.

### How much to take:

Antibiotics are ordered by the doctor/dentist. The amount depends on the patient's weight. The doctor will order the correct dose. Listed below are the guidelines from the American Heart Association:

- **Amoxicillin:**  
50 mg/kg with a maximum dose of 2 grams (40 kg child or larger)  
This is the standard antibiotic ordered unless the child is allergic to amoxicillin or other types of penicillin.

If there is an allergy to amoxicillin or penicillin, one of the following antibiotics will be used:

- **Cephalexin/Cefadroxil:**  
50 mg/kg with a maximum of 2 grams (40 kg or larger)  
Do not use cephalosporins for patients who have immediate hypersensitivity reaction to penicillin.
- **Clindamycin:**  
20 mg/kg with a maximum dose of 600 mg (30 kg or larger)
- **Azithromycin/Clarithromycin (Zithromax®):**  
15 mg/kg with a maximum of 500 mg (33 kg or larger)

### Special Instructions:

1. Call the Dialysis Unit one week before the dental appointment to obtain the antibiotic prescription.
2. Notify the Dialysis Unit if there is a reaction or any concerning side effects from the antibiotics (severe nausea, vomiting, hives, rash, swelling).

### Questions or concerns?

Call the Dialysis Unit at (816) 234-3100 or toll free at (888) 211-4218. After unit hours, call the Children's Mercy Hospital operator at (816) 234-3000 and ask for the Dialysis nurse on call.