

Preventing infective endocarditis

This patient is at risk of endocarditis

Name:

NHS #:

Heart condition:

Valve type:

Implant date:

Given to the patient by

Dr:

Royal Papworth Hospital, 01223 638000

After discussion with their cardiac specialist, this patient is classified at higher risk of endocarditis and has decided to:

- Take antibiotic prophylaxis
- Not take antibiotic prophylaxis

Please carry this card with you and show it to your doctor or dentist before treatment is started

For your healthcare professional

Dental work where antibiotic prophylaxis should be considered in higher risk patients includes:

- Extractions
- Subgingival scaling
- All procedures that involve manipulation of the gingival tissue or the periapical region of teeth or perforation of the oral mucosa.

Routine prophylaxis for infective endocarditis during non-dental procedures is NOT recommended unless performed at an infected or colonised site.

For patients who have not received a penicillin or cephalosporin-group antibiotic in the past four weeks: single dose Amoxicillin 2g orally (child 50mg/kg up to 2g); 30-60 minutes before the procedure.

For patients who have a penicillin allergy or who have taken a penicillin or cephalosporin-group antibiotic in the past four weeks: single dose Clindamycin 600mg orally (child – 20mg/kg up to 600mg); 30-60 minutes before the procedure.

Higher risk groups for endocarditis

- Previously had infective endocarditis
- Heart valve replacement or repair, including transcatheter valves
- Unrepaired cyanotic congenital heart disease or residual shunt or within six months of surgical or percutaneous repair
- Cardiac transplant patients who develop cardiac valvulopathy

Prophylaxis can be considered in patients who do not fit the above criteria and where there is a moderate risk of endocarditis. This decision should be made by the patient's consultant and the reason documented below:

Reducing your risk

- Maintain good oral hygiene (teeth and gums) and have regular check-ups with your dentist
- Avoid biting your nails
- Avoid body piercing or tattooing
- Don't inject recreational drugs

Recognising endocarditis

The symptoms of endocarditis are often very vague.

If you are at risk of getting endocarditis and have flu-like symptoms (fever, sweats or chills) that are severe or last longer than a week, you should seek medical attention from your GP urgently and bring this card.

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